



LYNNE TRUSS

Dangers lurking in the dining room

Unlikely home accidents, page 18



GO PLACES

Skiing holidays at 20% discount

Travel offer, page 14



VARSITY MATCH

Rugby's enduring Oxbridge tradition

David Hands, page 44

THE TIMES

No. 64,820

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7 1993

MPs call for rethink on CSA

Child agency blamed after man's suicide

By JILL SHERMAN AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

CHANGES in the working of the Child Support Agency are likely next month after an enquiry by MPs criticised the way it chases fathers for maintenance payments. One family yesterday blamed the body for driving a stateless man to suicide.

Peter Lilley is expected to bow to the mounting pressure for reform and accept key recommendations from the Commons social security select committee, including phasing in higher payments and taking account of domestic expenses such as the mortgage and looking after stepchildren.

There has been widespread concern that the agency is not leaving fathers enough to live on, and on Saturday a curator killed himself at Lord Byron's

Peter Lilley is expected to bow to pressure for reform of way in which the Child Support Agency has been pursuing fathers for payments

ancestral home after having his maintenance payments trebled. Graham Clay was found hanging from a staircase at Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire, the day after being told that he would have to give his former wife £300 of his £500 monthly take-home pay. His body was surrounded by documents and letters from the agency, with calculations scribbled on them.

In the Commons yesterday Conservative MPs complained that the new system had gone drastically wrong. They were echoing concerns that some fathers are being unfairly pursued for extra payments at the expense of those who pay nothing at all. But while Mr Lilley is likely to "fine tune" the way the agency works, he insisted yesterday that it had been much more successful than many had suggested in tracking down absent fathers. He said that 92 per cent of fathers who had left their families without trace had been found.

The government was looking at the concerns raised, he said. "If after examination we think we can make the scheme better still, we will do so." Evidently relieved that the select committee had not

week to help the lowest paid fathers:
□ Phase in new payments over two years;
□ Take into account the cost of caring for stepchildren;
□ Reduce the childcare element for children over 11;
□ Subject "clean break" settlements to judicial review.

Frank Field, the committee chairman, yesterday urged Mr Lilley to accept all the recommendations, saying that he risked a backbench rebellion if he failed to do so. Members of the committee had received more than 900 letters, mostly from Tory MPs. "Failure to do so, or to cherry-pick over the recommendations, will lead to a breaking up of political support for this reform," Mr Field said.

Donald Dewar, the shadow social security secretary, called for urgent action. "Many families have been torn apart by the injustices of the agency," he said. "A parent must accept a duty to contribute to the maintenance of his or her child. There is a danger that if the injustices are not tackled, the principle of parental responsibility will be damaged by the resulting bitterness and unfairness."

The Conservatives Simon Burns and David Milledge both urged the Government to take parents' commuting costs into account, but ministers are reluctant to allow special allowances in different situations. They are, however, sympathetic to the committee's suggestion that the father's protected income be increased and new arrangements are also expected over "clean break" settlements.

As MPs argued about the agency in the Commons, the Clay family expressed outrage at its approach. Mr Clay and his wife Wendy were divorced in October after separating last year. In July he agreed to pay £100 a month maintenance for his daughters Hayley, eight, and Joanna, nine. That was increased to £252 in August and on Friday he received another letter from the agency raising the payments to nearly £300, the family said.

On Saturday, his aunt found a note in his bedroom blaming the agency for his suicide. "He was devastated."

Continued on page 2, col 5



Clay: told to hand over £300 of his monthly £500

called for the agency to be wound up, the Social Security Secretary made clear that any changes would amount to tinkering rather than a fundamental overhaul. "It is inevitable that there should be some resistance to paying in full the costs of maintaining children if people have not been doing so up to now."

The committee recommended that the agency should:
□ Increase protected income from £8 to £20, £30 or £40 per



Runaway millionaire Peter Malkin and his son Oliver facing reporters at their hotel in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Hurghada yesterday

LWT to fight Granada's £595m takeover offer

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND MARTIN WALLER

A bitter television takeover war has broken out between the Granada Group, owner of Britain's oldest ITV company and maker of the nation's favourite television programme, Coronation Street, and London Weekend Television, maker of *Blind Date* and *The South Bank Show*. Granada's £595 million offer is the first hostile bid in the television industry in more than a decade.

The offer comes a week after Carlton Communications announced an agreed bid for Central Television. If successful, Granada's bid would result in a further concentration of power within the ITV contractors. It would create Britain's second biggest ITV company, after the merger between Carlton and Central, reaching about 16 million viewers and commanding 22 per cent of ITV advertising.

Although senior LWT executives stand to make personal fortunes worth tens of millions of pounds from the bid by selling their own share options, Sir Christopher Bland, LWT's chairman, said that the bid failed to "reflect the past performance and future prospects of the company." He added: "We believe in the strength of LWT as an independent company."

LWT, whose stable of show

business stars and access to the lucrative London advertising market makes it the most sought-after ITV company left on the market, now has to decide whether to forge its own alliances with rival companies, such as Yorkshire Tyne Tees or Anglia, or whether simply to hold out for a higher price from Granada.

Granada described its price as "full and fair" but has not ruled its offer final, leaving the possibility of a raised bid if the offer is not enough.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, gave a warning that without Granada, LWT "risks being

marginalised on a national, let alone an international, scale." He said that Granada, one of the strongest ITV programme producers with a range of drama and "factual" programmes from *Prime Suspect* to *World in Action*, would be a perfect fit with LWT, whose strengths lie in light entertainment shows.

Both the Granada and Carlton bids were sparked by proposals from Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, to relax takeover rules on ITV companies and enable them to hold more than one of ITV's 15 regional licences. The measure is designed to increase the financial muscle of British broadcasters and make them more competitive in the mushrooming international media markets.

If passed in the Commons on Wednesday and in the Lords next Monday, the ownership rule change will come into operation on January 1.

The Labour Party warned last night that the Granada bid would threaten regional television production and said it would vote against the ITV rule changes.

North-South fight, page 5
Letters, page 19
Bid challenged, page 23
Pennington, page 25
LWT overtaken, page 27

Millionaire defies calls to return son to mother

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HURGHADA

PETER Harris, the Official Solicitor, last night expressed concern for the psychological well-being of the 12-year-old boy kidnapped by his father and taken to Egypt. All attempts, including a telephone call from Mr Harris, failed yesterday to persuade Peter Malkin to return his son Oliver to his mother.

Mr Harris has also given the go-ahead for sequestration of the millionaire's assets in England to try to achieve the return of Oliver to Eliza

Pridmore, who lives in Britanny. But Mr Malkin, 54, remained defiant, saying he would resist any efforts by the English authorities to separate him from his son.

Oliver himself told reporters at Hurghada on the Red Sea: "I miss my pony Henry who is back in Kent and my dogs. I want to go back to school in England again and live with my dad there. I am scared to go back to France."

Father defiant, page 3

No-fault divorce proposed

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW one year no-fault divorce was proposed by the Lord Chancellor yesterday, which could be introduced by the next parliamentary session.

Unveiling a Green Paper aimed at scrapping the present fault-based adversarial system, Lord Mackay of Clashfern said he wanted to reduce the bitterness and distress of divorce, and the damage caused to children.

He made it clear that he is seeking wide public support for the radical overhaul of divorce laws in England and Wales, with a view to quick legislation. A three-month consultation period will follow, including a survey on public attitudes to divorce and mediation.

The proposals won immediate praise from mediation bodies. The Law Society endorsed the option of a no-fault divorce, saying that the present law exacerbated tensions.

Green Paper, page 7

INDEX	
Arts	31-33
Births, marriages, deaths	20
Body and Mind	17
Business	23-29
Chess	7-14
Court and Social	30
Crossword	22
Diary	18
Law Report	38
Leading articles	19
Letters	21
Obituaries	21
Racing	41
Sport	39-42, 44
Times Today	22
Times Two Crossword	44
Weather	22
Your Own Business	30
TV & Radio	43

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Grain deal clears way for Gatt

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE path to a Gatt agreement appeared to be cleared last night when European and American negotiators tied up an agreement on the nagging question of EC subsidies for grain exports.

The agreement should pave the way for a final flurry of compromises. But last night negotiators were still fighting their way through last-minute bargaining. "Intensive, tough," was how a Commission spokesman described the talks.

One stumbling block came in last-minute demands from the French that the EC arm itself with new weapons for future trade wars.

Grain pact, page 12

Two boys accused of threat to kill child, 4, on railway line

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO boys aged 10 and 11 have been accused of stabbing and threatening to kill a six-year-old boy four days after the James Bulger trial ended.

The alleged incident happened, like the killing of two-year-old James, near a railway line. The boys are accused of trying to force the six-year-old to electrocute himself on the live track of the Newcastle upon Tyne Metro rail system at Shieldfield on November 28. The younger child had, it is claimed, been bound hand and foot and then knifed in the arm.

The boys, from the inner city East End area of Newcastle, are also accused of indecently assaulting and causing actual bodily harm to his brothers aged seven and 10. At a special sitting of the

city's magistrates on Saturday, the 10-year-old sat with his mother and the 11-year-old with a social worker. They were remanded into local authority care and ordered not to interfere with witnesses or return to their home addresses, which are near where the alleged incident happened. The boys will appear before Newcastle youth court at Gosforth today.

The alleged offenders came to light when one of the victims was being bathed and his parents saw marks on his body. The two boys were arrested last Thursday and interviewed at Pilgrim Street police station in the city centre.

Police said that if the case goes to trial it is likely to be heard at Crown Court

because of the seriousness of the charges. Chief Inspector Bob Pattison of Northumbria police said: "The alleged offences occurred very close after the verdict in the Bulger enquiry. There is also the element of the railway line, but to draw any conclusions at this stage would be wrong. Our enquiries are continuing."

The trial of two 11-year-old boys at Preston Crown Court heard how they had taken James Bulger from his mother at the Strand shopping centre in Bootle and walked him for two hours across Liverpool before stoning him to death on a railway line.

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, who were both 10 when they killed James, were tried by a jury at Crown Court and found guilty of murder.

Palestinian gunmen kill two settlers

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security forces last night faced the threat of an all-out war between Arab and Jewish residents in the West Bank town of Hebron, after Palestinian gunmen shot dead two Jewish settlers and injured three children.

Guns were fired on an Israeli car near the entrance to Kiryat Arba, the most militant Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, killing a father, his son and wounding three of his other children. Armed residents gathered at the site, vowing revenge.

The incident threatens to spark a conflict between the 90,000 Palestinians and 6,000 Jewish settlers.

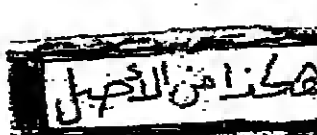
Olive branch, page 15

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Patten puts morality at heart of sex education

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SEX education became the latest element in the Government's "back to basics" campaign yesterday as schools were urged to stress moral responsibilities and family values in a new national curriculum package.

John Patten, the Education Secretary, said young people should be given a moral framework, as well as learning the mechanics of sex. Schools should build on a process begun in the home.

"Moral values lie at the heart of education," Mr Patten said. "No school should be a value-free zone. Every school must have its own ethos, underpinned by a set of shared values. These should inform everything that happens: in the classroom, the corridor, the playground and the staffroom."

Parents will have the right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons, which will form a discrete part of the national curriculum for the first time.

The guidelines, which are subject to consultation, are considerably less prescriptive than those issued to governors in April. References to homosexuality and contraceptive advice to pupils below the age of consent have disappeared, and there is no guidance on the age at which sex education should begin in primary schools.

Pupils will be "helped to appreciate" the value of stable family life, marriage and the responsibilities of parenthood. But the guidelines add: "Teachers should, however, remember that many children come from backgrounds that do not correspond to this ideal: sensitivity is therefore needed to avoid causing personal hurt and giving unwitting offence."

Outrage, the gay and lesbian campaigning group, claimed "a victory over intolerance". Advice sent to governors in April said: "There is no place in any school in any circumstances for teaching which advocates homosexual

behaviour, which presents it as the norm, or which encourages homosexual experimentation by pupils."

However, Mr Patten said he believed there was widespread agreement on "core values", including self-reliance and self-discipline, the acceptance of responsibility, unselfishness and the need for self-restraint, loyalty and fidelity.

Under the proposals, sex education will be removed from the science curriculum, but all state secondary schools will continue to provide lessons on sexually transmitted diseases. Sex education will not be compulsory in primary schools.

Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The Education Secretary's plan to give greater emphasis to moral and ethical questions could come to nothing if parents exercise their right to opt pupils out of sex education lessons."

The new provisions, under the 1993 Education Act, come into force next September.

Mr Patten yesterday gave students a guarantee that they will not be charged tuition fees for at least the next three years. Leaked papers from Mr Patten's pre-Budget negotiations with the Treasury suggested fees could be introduced in 1995. The record of a meeting with Michael Portillo, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, acknowledged that graduates would have to make a contribution to the costs of further expansion of higher education.

Mr Patten insisted there would be no change to the Government's plans for higher education funding, announced in last week's Budget.

Leading article, page 19

Rare blast of Tory passion not enough to rattle China

Cynics have suggested that your average male Tory MP is immune to those feelings of human sympathy which can grip other mortals: that he is deaf to the cries of the oppressed, unmoved by any burning sense of justice.

This is unfair. Time spent at the House yesterday would have convinced even hard-cased sceptics that Tory males can be roused to fury when citizens are wronged. For the Tory backbenches were in a mood of rare indignation.

And the cause of their anxiety? The distress of male divorcees when forced by the Child Support Agency to contribute more than their divorce settlements stipulate toward

the upkeep of offspring. I cannot remember when Commons Tories were more upset — unless it was when Keith Joseph wanted middle-class parents to pay for their children's university tuition. Backbenchers were all in a lather... but I spare you the names and move to the next business: Hong Kong. The Foreign Secretary reported to the House on the latest impasse with China.

The position sounded bleak. It was said to find only 22 MPs on the Tory back benches, nine on the Labour benches, and four others, gathered to observe the imperial sunset. Douglas Hurd, grey-visaged in grey suit and grey tie, sailed through his

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

speech notes with that sorrowful dignity which is his stock-in-trade: all regret, decency and sweet reason. Time, he said, was running out. What he called "the through-train" to democracy, post-1997, was ready to depart, but Peking refused to get on board.

The idea of Mr Hurd as a worried stationmaster, waiting with his whistle for the right signals, appealed. In common with every stationmaster he wanted the train to leave, of course, but would not actually be travelling on it

himself. Once it has departed, a mug of tea awaits in the stationmaster's office down the platform in the Lords.

"We've not," he said (of democratisation in the colony), "regarded this as some kind of stampede." The idea of Mr Hurd in a stampede was implausible indeed; it would be difficult enough to picture him at the opening day of a Harrod's sale.

"I expect some bumping and grinding in the months ahead," he added, grimly. We would be amazed if Mr Hurd

had ever in his life bumped or ground, even in his youth. One quails at the possibility that he may have to now, preferring the thought that he will leave this to younger men at the FCO.

When Dennis Skinner rose, hoping to torment him, the Foreign Secretary achieved one of the most eloquent responses I have ever heard from him. Skinner had lurched into a rant (of sorts) about how we in Britain are fine ones to lecture the Chinese on democracy; and what about a system of government in which Hong Kong created its own House of Lords to govern itself? Mr Skinner sat down abruptly.

Mr Hurd rose. It cannot be said that the Foreign Secretary spoke. With lips tightly pursed, he simply looked at Skinner, and made a strangled yet refined little whinnying noise. It spoke volumes.

Only once did the massive calm which inhabits Mr Hurd depart. David Harris (C, St Ives) asked about "Beijing". Suddenly the great man was agitated. "Oh I don't see any reason," he cried, "to abandon a perfectly good English word like Peking. I don't say Moskva, Roma or Bruxelles."

Mr Hurd had contemplated confrontation in Hong Kong with calm, but now he was full of passionate intensity. Here was something else a Tory can believe in.

Rock folly tenant stands firm in face of officialdom



Nancy Buckle stands defiantly outside her home, which has no bathroom, no running water and no inside lavatory. She is fighting plans to rehouse her from the grade II listed folly where her family has lived for 200 years, Paul Wilkinson writes.

The House in the Rock was chiselled out of the limestone 300ft up the gorge cut by the river Nidd through Knaresborough in North Yorkshire. Its man-made, four-storey front wall and the four rooms cut from the rock behind were built by her ancestor Thomas Hill in 1770 and have attracted visitors to the scenic market town ever since. Until Harrogate Council declared it unfit for human

habitation last month, tourists paid Miss Buckle, 52, a former nursing sister, £1 a head to look inside.

She said yesterday that she was concerned the house would lose its special character if it was sold by its owners, the trustees of Ampleforth Abbey. "I am afraid someone will buy it and change everything. I want the story which my ancestors have told to thousands of visitors to continue." She suggests the house could be taken over by English Heritage, allowing her to remain as custodian. "I know far more about the place than anyone else." She has the support of John Goodchild of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. "It really is quite

an extraordinary building," he said. "I hesitate to say it is unique, but I know of nothing else like it. The atmosphere alone is worthy of preservation."

Paul Johnson, spokesman for the abbey's trustees, denied they were planning to capitalise on the tourism potential. "No firm decisions have been taken as to what should be done with it."

Timothy Moulle, an assistant environmental health officer at the council, said: "The house is grossly unfit to live in." He added: "Apart from the lack of services, the main problem is damp, with rotting floorboards and joists. The front wall is also bulging."

Whitehall advisers paid more than PM

BY JONATHAN PROBYN AND ALICE THOMSON

THE spiralling cost of Whitehall special advisers was revealed last night with the disclosure that three receive salaries higher than the Prime Minister and nearly half are paid more than MPs.

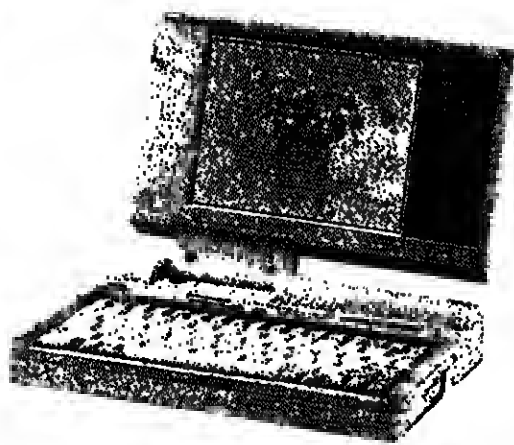
The Prime Minister's office said in a written Commons answer that two special advisers were paid between £80,000 and £90,000, while the highest paid receives a salary of up to £100,000.

John Major is paid £76,234, while MPs recently voted themselves a rise of 2.7 per cent to £32,536 from January 1. The trio of highly rewarded special advisers may include Sarah Hogg, head of the Downing Street policy unit, which also employs Lord Poole, the City banker.

Another written question from Matthew Taylor, the Liberal Democrat MP for Truro, showed that the total cost to the taxpayer of employing special advisers has risen almost 40 per cent in real terms since 1988 to £137 million this year. Of the 35 special advisers attached to ministers on November 1, 17 were paid in excess of £40,000.

One special adviser hired from the City said yesterday: "We are incredibly good value for what we do and how hard we work. I don't think we are paid nearly enough."

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Child agency blamed for suicide

Continued from page 1 and said it was like a bad dream," Josie Clay said. "It left him now money to start his new life he had been looking for or to buy Christmas presents for the children."

The note and documents found with the body were taken away by the police and may be presented to an inquest next week.

Mr Clay added: "The split-up was amicable. They were good friends afterwards and he visited his kids regularly. He loved his children and always expected to make some contribution, but when that last letter from the CSA landed on the doormat we all felt frustrated and angry."

"This tragedy is definitely the fault of the agency. They certainly have something to answer for over this."

Mr Clay's identical twin brother added: "It was definitely the letter from the agency that did this. It was the key factor which caused the tragedy. He was angry and upset. It ruined his plans to start a fresh life. The letter said the money would be taken out of his wages, which meant he would have virtually nothing left."

The agency declined to comment on the grounds of confidentiality.

CORRECTION

In an article on Ireland (Times page 1) it was incorrectly reported that the journalist Emily O'Reilly works for the Irish Sunday Express and had revealed details of exchanges between British government agents and Sinn Féin/IRA.

In fact Ms O'Reilly works for the Irish Press for whom she exclusively reported, on November 19, the leak of a document giving the Irish government's view on a possible Ulster peace settlement. We apologise to Ms O'Reilly for these inaccuracies as well as any implication that she obtained her exclusive other than by good journalistic practice.

Howard rejects plea on murder sentencing

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Howard yesterday rejected calls from a committee headed by Lord Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, to abolish mandatory life sentences for people convicted of murder. The home secretary's intervention came after Lord Lane attacked the motives of home secretaries who take public opinion into account when deciding whether to release a life-sentence prisoner.

Without mentioning Mr Howard, Lord Lane told a press conference held at Westminster yesterday: "When public opinion is called upon in these cases it usually means either 'I'm going to get more votes if I do this' or else it is an easy way of sanitising his own views."

Earlier this year Mr Howard said that before any life was released early on licence he would consider the public acceptability of the move. Mr Howard said that he had not been persuaded by the arguments for change put forward by Lord Lane's enquiry team.

"Murder has always been seen in our law as a unique offence and democratically accountable ministers have always had a role in the way in which the law was administered."

"It was important when looking at murder to take into account the public feeling on the issue," he said.

The 11-strong team recommended abolishing the mandatory life sentence for murder because it was too blunt a tool to deal with a range of killings. Abolishing the sentence would allow judges to impose whatever penalty was merited by the facts of the case whether a heinous terrorist act or a mercy killing, the report said.

The report said that the length of time a murderer serves in prison should be determined openly by the courts rather than by ministers, officials and judges behind closed doors.

Lord Lane, page 18

Nuclear worker wins leukaemia payout

A nuclear submarine worker suffering from leukaemia was awarded more than £163,000 yesterday in a test case brought against the Ministry of Defence (Michael Evans writes). Rudy Molinari, who worked at Chatham docks in Kent, had sued the ministry for £250,000, claiming that he had contracted the disease from his job as a fitter on the Navy's nuclear-powered "hunter killer" submarines.

After yesterday's award in the High Court, Mr Molinari, from Strood, Kent, said: "I'm glad it's all over but no amount of money will ever be enough to compensate for what my family and I have gone through."

The ministry had denied negligence but admitted breach of statutory duty in that it "failed to do all that was reasonably practicable to restrict the extent to which Mr Molinari was exposed to ionising radiation."

Make a car, Miss Jones

Office workers at Rover have been asked to volunteer for the assembly lines in an attempt to meet rising demand. As many as 1,000 white-collar staff are needed to start working soon after Christmas at Longbridge and Solihull in the West Midlands, and at Cowley, Oxford. Under the company's "New Deal", Rover workers are guaranteed a job for life. In return, they have to promise to work anywhere in the business. Average wages on the assembly lines are about £256 a week.

Sales accelerate, page 9

Warning by Gorbachev

Mikhail Gorbachev, right, received the freedom of Aberdeen yesterday. Later, in Edinburgh, he set out his vision of a "Greater Europe" and said that, if the former Warsaw Pact countries were excluded, there was a danger of the Cold War resuming. "There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that Russia will become a great power," he said. "But if that should happen on some other basis, European history could once again take a tragic turn."



Clergy switch to Rome

Two former Anglican clergymen have been received into the Roman Catholic Church and hope to become Catholic priests. Bruce Dutton, former rector of St Giles, Reading, and Shaun Swales, a former curate in the Wakefield diocese, formally left the Church of England and became Catholics in a High Mass on Sunday at the Oratory, Birmingham.

Cost of compassion

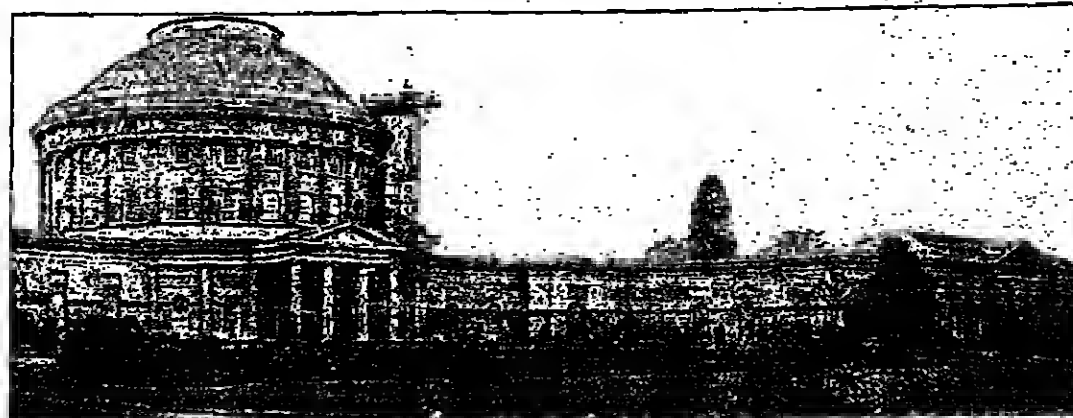
Hospital chaplains are being asked to draw up business plans setting out how much they charge for speaking to the dying. Under the new NHS internal market, health authorities are seeking details of what services the chaplains offer and how their time is used. The information could be used to bill individual departments.

هكذا من الأصل

Marquess is jailed for drug-taking



The marquess fled to France just a month after the judge's ultimatum



Ickworth House, Bristol's ancestral home, will be sold to ease his "profound" tax problems

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

THE Marquess of Bristol began a 10-month prison sentence yesterday after a judge said he had thrown away a last chance to break the drug addiction that has cost him his £7 million fortune and the family estate.

Lord Bristol, 39, was told in July to give up his heroin and cocaine habit or go to jail after admitting possessing drugs at his stately home, Ickworth House in Suffolk. But he had ignored doctors' advice and "gone his own way", Judge Stable QC said. He had allowed himself to be a slave to his addiction and gone to the South of France to indulge in hard drugs.

The marquess, who was charged under the name of Frederick William John Augustus Hervey, looked gaunt and pale when he appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London. He showed no reaction as he was sentenced and walked stiffly from the dock. Sentencing had been deferred for five months at the end of his trial to give him the opportunity to save himself from ruin.

Earlier George Carman QC, for

■ Lord Bristol never seriously intended to give up the drug habit that has dissipated his fortune, despite assurances to a judge by medical experts

the defence, said Bristol had "dissipated" his inheritance, spending £7 million in the last 10 years, and now had to sell the remainder of his 400-year-old ancestral seat.

The sale to the National Trust, which already owns a large part of the estate and allows Lord Bristol a life tenancy in one wing, would raise about £2 million and help to ease "profound" tax problems. "His plan is to live abroad, when he can, in more modest circumstances," Mr Carman said.

Judge Stable told Bristol: "I gave you a chance in July and in my judgment you have thrown it away." He said that when the marquess was last before the court, medical experts testified that he had the motivation to overcome his addiction.

But, the judge said, when the medical director of the clinic where Bristol was treated went on holiday just one month into the treatment,

the marquess discharged himself and relapsed into taking hard drugs.

Judge Stable believed the peer returned to the clinic at the beginning of November only so that he could be sufficiently detoxified for his court appearance. "I am satisfied you have no real motivation to be cured of your addiction... you have never seriously intended to give up," he said.

Police raided Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds, in October 1991. Officers and a sniffer dog who searched the east wing, where Bristol lived, found containers used to store the drugs that he smoked through rolled-up banknotes every two hours. Cocaine was kept in a gold snuff-box.

Dr Gerald Woolfson, who was treating Bristol, urged the judge to allow him to return to the clinic for two months. Jail would make Bristol hostile and angry, he said.

A childhood so devoid of love

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BIZARRE and anguished childhood preceded the ruin of the seventh Marquess of Bristol by his 20-year addiction to hard drugs. George Carman QC, defending the aristocrat, told the court that Bristol had a fragile personality that had its roots in his upbringing.

"My instructions are that until the age of 13 Lord Bristol was not allowed to dine with his parents," he said. "He was compelled to wear on a daily basis long white gloves and received no normal family or parental affection."

Since the age of 20, when the Marquess was fined for stealing hollards in Knightsbridge, he has been a star of the gossip columns. When not undergoing treatment for his addiction, the 39-year-old classic car enthusiast took a 15th-century family seat, Ickworth, set among 4,000 Suffolk acres.

He is so attached to his home that he commissioned an artist to paint scenes from it on 15th panels and fixed all 16 to an apartment block in New York so that he could see the view.

In 1984, before becoming a registered drug addict, Lord Bristol spoke out against the "evil, wicked" heroin problem, saying: "I've always

been against narcotics and always will be." He married Francesca Fisher in the same year. His father refused to attend the wedding, and a honeymoon was forsaken in favour of the shooting season. The union was childless and ended in divorce.

The marquess, for years an object of speculation in the village of Horringer, succeeded his father in 1985. Four years later, he was fined £3,000 for other drug offences, and has since been convicted of drink-driving offences.

In the following year, the Hereditary High Steward of the Liberty of St Edmund achieved the distinction of being the first British aristocrat deported from Australia for failing to tell immigration authorities that he had been jailed for a year for possession of cocaine.

The Old Harrowian's inheritance included a 57,000-acre Australian sheep station and four oil wells in Louisiana. Helped by his jet-set lifestyle and a savaging in the recession, financial stormclouds gathered in recent years. His daughter, Yvonne, Marchioness of Bristol, issued a £100,000 writ against him over an unsuccessful court battle he and his half-brother fought to invalidate their father's will.



Family crest, motto: I shall never forget

We will never part, vows father who seized boy

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HURGHADA, EGYPT, AND RICHARD DUCE

THE millionaire businessman who fled to Egypt after abducting his 12-year-old son vowed yesterday to defy all attempts by British authorities to separate them again.

Attempts by the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, to break the impasse with Peter Malkin in a personal telephone call ended in failure.

Mr Harris has now ordered the sequestration of Mr Malkin's already frozen assets in England in an attempt to force him to return his son Oliver to his ex-wife, who lives in Britain, in compliance with a court order.

Mr Malkin said at his hotel: "I am prepared to lose everything to keep with my boy. If the judge wants to confiscate all that I have, I have my brother and other family members and friends who will rally round to help."

Mr Harris said yesterday he was considering sending one of his staff to collect Oliver from the Red Sea resort of Hurghada and escort him

back to his mother, Elisa Pridmore, but would only do so with the agreement of Mr Malkin.

Mr Malkin, 54, who has owned a country club near Canterbury, Kent, for 27 years, responded: "I am a bloody strong person. If any of those bureaucrats come here, they will be going straight into that swimming pool."

Oliver was snatched a month ago for the third time in breach of a court order. He was abducted from a school bus near his mother's home. She has breast cancer and is too ill to travel to Egypt, where the boy and his father made their presence known on Sunday after evading a European-wide search.

Mr Harris has contacted the Egyptian authorities to see if there are legal moves that could force Mr Malkin to return Oliver and last night was waiting for a response. Egypt, however, is not a signatory of the Hague Convention covering the unlawful

taking of children across international borders.

Mr Harris said: "I deplore Mr Malkin's conduct. I do not think it is in the interests of Oliver and wish that Mr Malkin would comply immediately with the orders of the court."

"I spoke to him today in order to ask him what he proposes to do in terms of handing over Oliver. He mentioned he wants to come back to England but wants to discuss that first with his solicitor."

"I very much regret that Mr Malkin invited reporters to talk to Oliver in circumstances which can only add to the confusion and psychological harm which, in my view, he has already suffered."

Oliver's mother, who met Mr Malkin while working at his club, was awarded custody when she and Mr Malkin divorced in 1989 after nine years of marriage.

Photograph, page 1



David Shepherd believes in saving elephants, tigers, gorillas,

steam locomotives, and time, poisoned by poachers.

in a hurry. He has interviews and lectures to give, films to produce, and books to write.

Not to mention a three-year backlog of wildlife paintings to finish.

"I run almost everywhere I go because I am so anxious to get on with the joy of what I am doing next."

What makes David Shepherd run?

Some thirty years ago, he was making a name for himself as a painter. Among the commissions he received was one from the Royal Air Force in Kenya. "When I arrived they said to me: 'We don't want paintings of aircraft; we fly them all day long. Do you do local things like elephants?'"

Thus began his phenomenally successful career as a wildlife artist. Then, in the Serengeti National Park, he came across 255 dead zebras - their watering hole.

"From that moment, I became a conservationist. Who wouldn't?"

Shepherd is a man of many enthusiasms; his passion for conserving wildlife matched by his passion for preserving steam locomotives. The proceeds from all his activities are channelled into The David Shepherd Conservation Foundation and The East Somerset Railway.

In 1979, the World Wildlife Fund presented him with a specially-engraved Rolex Oyster. "It's been through African rivers and swamps, you name it. I take it for granted, totally."

David Shepherd knows how precious a commodity time is. That is why he seizes every opportunity to show how time is running out for the wildlife he so admires.

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Royalty rises above feverish rumours

By ALAN HAMILTON AND LUCY BERRINGTON

PURSUED by a voracious media and by a mountain of speculation about her future, the Princess of Wales yesterday made her first public appearance since her announcement last Friday that she was preparing to withdraw from public life.

At the invitation of Richard Branson, the Princess visited Heathrow airport to name a new £66 million Airbus A340 for Mr Branson's Virgin Atlantic airline. After the ceremony, she boarded the aircraft for a 75-minute inaugural flight over Britain.

A welter of theories about the future of the Prince and Princess have also taken wing since her announcement on Friday. Both Buckingham Palace and Downing Street have dismissed as ridiculous reports yesterday that the Queen

favoured the line of succession passing directly to Prince William on her death.

Reports that the Princess is to establish a foundation for charitable works, similar to those headed by Baroness Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev, were dismissed as no more than a fleeting idea that might have been briefly considered by the Princess and her unofficial advisers.

Palace officials stressed that she meant what she said on Friday. They conceded, however, that her patronage of British Red Cross was likely to figure prominently in a greatly reduced charity portfolio. The Palace also denied it is preparing a further announcement on the state of her marriage.

Photograph, page 22

Art thieves escape with £1.2m haul

THIEVES stole 15 paintings worth more than £1 million from a central London art gallery over the weekend.

The gang seized works by 17th-century artists, including Jan van Goyen, Albert Marquet and Pieter Brueghel the Younger, from a vault at the Noortman Gallery in Old Bond Street. They broke into an empty office through a fourth-floor window, walked down the stairs and smashed a hole in an internal wall using sledgehammers and cutting gear.

The gallery's most valuable paintings were left untouched on display in another part of the building, although one painting worth £200,000 was left behind in the vault.

It is thought the gang were sealing to order for a wealthy collector. The paintings are likely to be smuggled abroad.

Men quit hen-coop after 18 hours

By JOHN YOUNG

FOUR men who accepted a £10,000 challenge to live like battery hens for a week gave up yesterday after just 18 hours in a cage about 3ft wide, 3ft long and 5ft 6in high. They ate only brown rice and beans dropped down a pipe on to a metal tray outside the cage, with access to a dripping tap but no sanitation.

The four men had accepted a challenge from Rebecca Hall, a vegan author, who is campaigning against "animal concentration camps".

At luncheon on Sunday Bill Davies, 34, a builder of Wigmor, Hereford and

Worcester, Richard Brett, 34, a lorry driver from Oxford, Daryl Heathfield, 27, of Newent, Gloucestershire, and Stuart Wastie, 21, a photography student from Witley, Oxfordshire, squeezed into the cage in a stable at Ms Hall's home in Woolhope near Hereford. But shortly after 7am yesterday they asked to be released.

Mr Davies said he was disappointed that the challenge had ended so soon, but one of his companions, who had an artificial leg, could not take it any longer. "The wire was painful and it hurt my

feet and backside. Overnight I managed to snatch 10 to 15-minute periods of sleep. It was uncomfortable, but I really wanted to see it through."

Ms Hall said: "This was pretty much what I expected." She is author of *Animals are Equals*, in which she claims some animals have psychic powers to cure disease in humans. "I think I have proved a point. These men experienced tremendous discomfort and yet we subject animals to these conditions all the time, imagining that they have no feelings."

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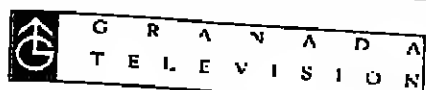
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توكذا من الأصل



TV giants square up for bitter takeover struggle



North-South fight for jewel in ITV crown

Granada's battle for control of London Weekend Television is proving to be *Coronation Street* and *Bet Lynch* versus *Melvyn Bragg* and *The South Bank Show*. It has also brought into opposition two of the most controversial chief executives in television. *Andrew Pierce* and *Bill Frost* look at the protagonists



Greater London Council. Sir Christopher was the Tory member for Lewisham on the GLC in the late 1960s. He also chaired the Bow Group, the spiritual home for those on the left of the Conservative Party.

Friend and foe alike agree that diplomacy is not Mr Dyke's strong suit. His allies speak of "refreshing bluntness" while his detractors describe him as at best insensitive, at worst "a thoroughgoing philistine".

WHEN Gerry Robinson, above, marched into Granada in November 1991 from Compass Catering not everyone was impressed. John Cleeve sent a fax saying: "Why don't you f... off you ignorant upstart caterer?"

The ebullient Mr Robinson, 45, noted: "I am obviously more of a fan of him than he is of me." Within months, the two had enjoyed a convivial lunch.

But beneath the almost permanent smile is a deep conviction that he knows where he is going. Few at Granada have any doubts about what a successful takeover would mean for LWT. "It is Manchester against London. I suspect Gerry Robinson thinks they have it too easy in the South," said one official.

Jobs will go and Greg Dyke, the chief executive, is likely to be top of his hit list. The company is also likely to cast a greedy eye over the LWT headquarters on the South Bank. "Perhaps the whole operation will be moved to Manchester," said the official.

The ninth child of a Donegal carpenter who moved to England, Mr Robinson studied for holy orders but suffered a crisis of faith. His first job was as a cost clerk at Lesney Products, maker of Matchbox toys. At Grand Metropolitan he earned the nickname of the mad caterer. He then led the management buy-out of Compass from Grand Metropolitan and brought it to market.

A keen painter and music lover, he has pledged that Granada, the aristocrat of television, will no longer make classics such as *The Jewel in the Crown*.



Even by the ruthless standards of the television boardroom, Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman of London Weekend Television, and Greg Dyke, the company's chief executive, are formidable adversaries.

Where Sir Christopher is urbane though acerbic, Mr Dyke is an unashamed populist who speaks his mind. An insider said yesterday: "Greg introduced Roland Rai on TV-am, the chairman reads the metaphysical poets. But for all the cultural differences they share a passionate belief in LWT and a gift for success. They won't sit idly by while Granada tries to swallow us up."

Sir Christopher was the architect of LWT's controversial "golden handcuffs" deal. The management scheme, linked to share performance, was launched in 1989 to ensure that senior executives remained loyal at a time when franchises were due for renewal. The deal has left both men conspicuously wealthy. Sir Christopher owns 1.84 per cent of LWT, worth £11.2 million, while Mr Dyke has stock worth £7.4 million.

Before their rise to the top of the television industry both men shared political ambition. Mr Dyke, once a community relations worker in south London, stood as a Labour candidate for the



While all eyes are on Granada and LWT, other predators are ready to pounce. Lord Hollick, above, the socialist millionaire who heads MAI, the media and financial services group that has a 61 per cent holding in Meridian, is one of those eyeing other stations.

Lord Hollick, 48, who earned his title as one of Neil Kinnock's working peers, announced in June that pre-tax profits at MAI, one of Europe's top 500 companies, were up 13 per cent to £80 million. Meridian had been expected to move into profit next June. Lord Hollick, who is married to a former producer at Granada, said the company was "in danger of doing that six months early".

The peer, who was on the *Daily Mirror* board until he quit in March after conflict with the management, makes no secret that broadcasting is at the core of MAI's expansion plans. The company, which he built from humble surroundings in south London, has resources of £55 million.

It was through Simon Albury, a friend from university, that he broke into television. Mr Albury asked him to raise the money to take over the ITV franchise held by TVS in his native Southampton, which Meridian won with a bid of £36.5 million.



Ward Thomas, the chairman of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, is, according to insiders, one of the industry's original tough cookies. Last month he returned from retirement in France amid reports that predators were set to swallow up the company he helped to found more than 25 years ago.

A senior YTV executive said yesterday that Thomas's age — he is 70 — was not important. "He brings a wealth of experience back to us at a very difficult time. He's the father of the company and commands a lot of respect. The feeling is that if anyone can save us from the predators, he can."

Mr Thomas, who took over the chairmanship of YTV after sacking the former incumbent, has stepped into something of a financial mess. The company sold £15 million more advertising airtime than could be delivered.

Industry observers insist, however, that hostile takeover bids will not unsettle a man who won two medals for gallantry while serving as a bomber pilot with the RAF during the Second World War.

Takeover challenge, page 1
Letters, page 19
Business News, page 23
Pennington, page 25
TV map, page 27



The cast of *Coronation Street* is an unlikely audience for high-brow fare such as LWT's *South Bank Show*

Channel 4 offers radical new twist

BY ALISON ROBERTS, ARTS REPORTER

A FLY-ON-THE-WALL insight into Graham Taylor's disastrous final months as England manager and a new late show for *Big Breakfast* presenter Chris Evans are among Channel 4's winter offerings.

The *Cutting Edge* waris-and-all portrait of Taylor will show the beleaguered football manager at the most crucial moments of his career. When a linesman makes a judgment against England during the Norway match in the World Cup qualifying competition, a camera in the dug-out captures Taylor muttering: "You have just cost me my job", or words to that effect.

The channel's new schedules will increase its iconic reputation with a handful of "on-the-edge" shows. These include three specially commissioned TV operas featuring such unlikely figures as Mike Ahearne, star of ITV's *Glad Tidings*, the comedian Rik Mayall, the actress Gina Bellman and the singing group The Flying Pickles.

Walk on the Wildside, a

new late-night documentary series, will look at young people on the edge of the law in Britain's cities, while Miriam Margolyes considers the fate of the royal family in a *Without Walls* feature.

Channel 4's American imports also reflect its calculated radicalism. *NYPD Blue*, from the creator of *Hill Street Blues*, comes trailing controversy about explicit language and its treatment of sexuality.

A season of Robert De Niro films will be screened, including the premieres of Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets* and *Goodfellas*.

Shows for a wider audience include the first adaptation of a novel by Joanna Trollope, *The Rector's Wife*. Evans, presenter of the channel's breakfast programme, gets his own Saturday night show, *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush*, but its format is secret.

The documentary event is *Beyond the Clouds*, seven one-hour episodes about two years of life in and around Lijiang, a previously closed city in southwest China.

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Green Paper proposes no-fault decrees and independent service to replace courts

Divorce without lawyers the cut-price answer

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL proposals that will allow couples to obtain no-fault divorces after one year using a new independent divorce service, instead of lawyers or the courts, were unveiled by the Lord Chancellor yesterday.

A drastic cut in legal aid is envisaged, which raises the spectre of limiting the public funds spent on divorce. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, unveiling the proposals, said that in the same way that people pay for their own weddings, they could be expected to pay for their divorces.

Under plans contained in a long-awaited Green Paper, all couples would have to start their divorce proceedings by attending a compulsory interview at a family advice centre.

There, instead of automatically seeing a lawyer, they would be urged to use trained mediators to sort out the necessary arrangements informally and amicably during a one-year "cooling off" period. Areas to be covered would include children and financial matters.

Mediation - which marks a fundamental change in philosophy from present court-based divorce - would not be compulsory, but the idea is that in

■ Divorcing couples will be required to take a year to consider the consequences without the need to apportion blame

time it should become the norm.

The proposals, which will affect some 150,000 couples who obtain divorces each year, are aimed at bringing to an end the present combative, adversarial approach to divorce which often fuels bitter and extremely costly legal disputes. In 1993-94, such cases will absorb £180 million in legal aid.

Lord Mackay said he and the Government were committed to the institution of marriage. While the law could never stop marriages falling apart, he wanted to ensure that "saveable marriages could be saved".

Lord Mackay said the proposals would make divorce easier or harder. "Divorce is hard. It is hard for the couples but especially for the children. It can be traumatic. The emotional cost is enormous. There is clear evidence that children suffer from the break-up of their parents' marriage."

At present, three quarters of divorces were based on adultery or unreasonable behaviour,

and in those cases divorce typically took as little as six months.

Lord Mackay's proposals, which were based largely on reforms recommended by the Law Commission, would require couples to spend a year - "delay with a purpose" - to consider the consequences of divorcing, without the need to apportion blame and to find fault.

At the heart of the reforms is the use of mediators, trained counsellors, to help sort out the arrangements with minimal conflict. Lord Mackay said: "I personally cannot see how fault as a doctrine helps support the institution of marriage. It seems to be the opposite. If you want to subvert a marriage quickly, all you have to do is allege fault."

By contrast, mediation would force people to consider their responsibilities. "If I have to examine my own conduct, my own part in bringing the marriage to an end, it does cause people to face up to what they have been responsible for."

Where divorce was unavoidable,

Lord Mackay wanted arrangements which would "minimise bitterness and conflict" and "reduce trauma for the children".

All divorcing couples would be obliged, as a first port of call, to seek a one-hour interview at an advice centre where they would be told how best to proceed and how to agree arrangements for children and property through mediation.

Only where it was unavoidable would couples be referred to lawyers for legal advice to be paid for from public funds. However, the person conducting the interview - the first port of call - would have the power to decide whether the couple qualified for such legal advice.

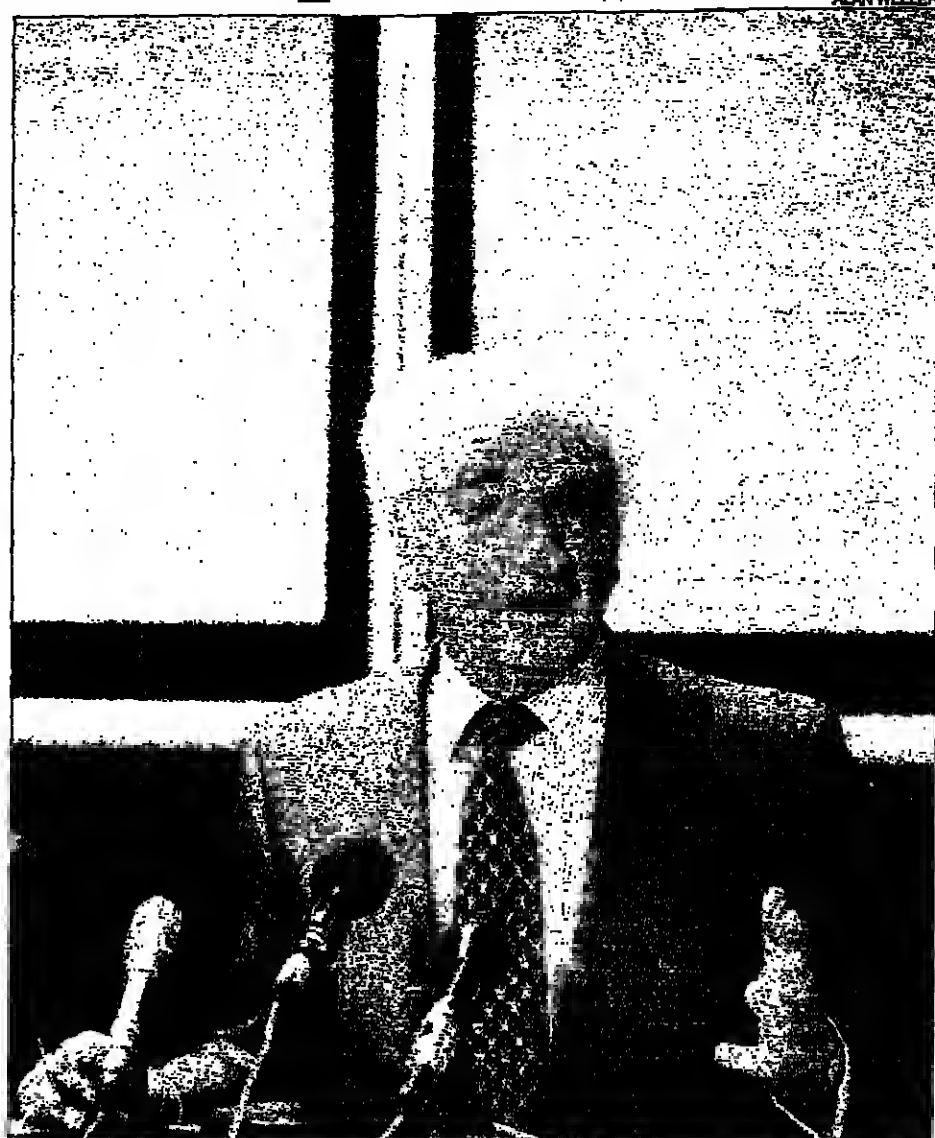
The key role of first port of call might be done by family court welfare officers, by the existing local mediation services, or by a new independent organisation.

One question which remained undecided was whether, if couples refused to go to mediation sessions, they could be disqualified from obtaining legal aid.

The proposals laid out in the Green Paper say that people have a right to refuse mediation provided that it does not "impose unnecessary costs on the taxpayer".

The likely cost of a mediation which tackles all issues in a divorce is put at £500 a case, compared with the average legal aid bill in a divorce case in 1992-93, which was £1,565.

Couples paying privately will have often paid much more.



Lord Mackay outlining the changes he is proposing to divorce proceedings

Uncommon solution shows its worth

BY OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE use of mediation to reach agreement between divorcing couples over children or property has grown significantly in England and Wales in the past ten years, but it is still relatively uncommon.

In the public sector it is provided by family court welfare officers who act at the request of the courts; in the private and voluntary sectors by 58 local services under the umbrella of the National Association of Family Mediation and Conciliation Services and by the Family Mediators' Association.

The national association is the biggest provider of out-of-court mediation and last year helped about 6,500 families, mostly with arrangements over children.

Mediators are trained. They can come from a counselling or social work background, or can be lawyers. It is claimed that mediation reduces bitterness and acrimony, focuses on the future not the past and on the children rather than on the couple. It also cuts costs and results in longer lasting arrangements.

There is little firm evidence about how successful it is but the national association estimates that, where there is a clear outcome, in 38 per cent of cases disputed issues were completely resolved. In 34 per cent they were partially resolved, 16 per cent saw family tensions reduced and 16 per cent reported no progress.



DIY advice proves quick and cheap

Jacqueline Amin, 31, lives in London and filed for divorce in July this year after almost four years of marriage and expects it to be absolute in January. She chose to apply for her divorce without the help of solicitors - cost £60.

Miss Amin feared that a divorce would cost hundreds of pounds, could result in a lengthy and bitter court battle and drag on for years. Instead she turned to the Divorce Registry in London, which said an uncontested divorce did not need a solicitor or a court appearance. "I had never been involved in a legal

CASE HISTORY 1

matter before and had no idea what to do," she said. "Following the registry's step-by-step leaflets, I realised I could organise my own divorce."

It cost £40 to file the petition, £15 for the divorce absolute certificate and £3.50 for a solicitor's signature. Both sides agreed to the split and did not contest property ownership.

"You have to give details and reason for filing for divorce," Miss Amin said.

"The more specific the grounds are, the quicker it will go through. Before I decided to file for divorce, I worried for months that I would not be able to afford it."

'A fair split was all we wanted'

Sharon Ramsey, 29, and her husband Leonard, 32, who is self-employed, live in Cambridge and have been separated since July. Married for ten years, with a daughter aged 2, they had "no idea who to turn to for advice" when their marriage broke down.

"We did not have a clue what to do," Mrs Ramsey, a part-time administration officer, said. "We did not want to go through solicitors for fear of it turning into a slanging match. All we wanted was a fair split."

After separation, their main disagreement concerned the house and maintenance payments for the child. After consulting a

CASE HISTORY 2

number of agencies which they felt were unable to give reasonable advice, they attended the Family and Divorce Centre in Cambridge. It offers specialist advice from solicitors and divorce counsellors with the emphasis on mediation.

Mrs Ramsey said: "Until then we had found no one who could give us simple answers to simple questions. We did not know what to do for the best. How could you? We sat down at the centre and found that we could be honest with each other and that there was no need to fight. We laid everything on the table."

After four sessions at the centre, they drafted an agreement which states that Mrs Ramsey will remain in the matrimonial home with their daughter and pay the mortgage while her husband will pay an agreed amount of maintenance.



Negotiation avoids big legal bills

Martyr Meadows, a shipping manager from Barnet, north London, has been married for 16 years. He has been separated from his wife Pauline, 41, for two years and expects the divorce to be finalised in March.

The couple could not agree on their house. "I found it very difficult to come to a settlement with my wife," Mr Meadows said. "We lived in a house my wife had inherited but I had paid the mortgage for years. I wanted some recompense for this but my wife wanted to keep the house." They wanted to avoid

CASE HISTORY 3

going to court. "We did not want to drag our private lives in front of a judge... We also did not want huge legal bills."

Discussions at the Family Mediators Association, which cost £270 each, led to agreement. "It can be traumatic and a bit fearful at times but it forced us to answer questions about why we were disagreeing with each other," Mr Meadows, above, said.

His wife will keep the marital home but pay for a deposit on his new flat. "We are now good friends," Mr Meadows said. "I can't imagine it being amicable if we had been through the courts."

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Tilburg

ANATOLY Karpov's victory in the knockout tournament at Tilburg brought him a £10,000 prize. The final game witnessed a superb series of knight pirouettes followed by a forced checkmate, after both sides had queened pawns. We join the position as Karpov is about to make his breakthrough.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Tilburg Final 1993

Caro-Kann Defence
Diagram after Black's 32nd move



33 Rg5 e4-
34 fxe4 Nxe4-
35 Nf24 Nf5-
36 Ng3 Ng2-
37 Rf2 Ng2-
38 Kf2 Ng2-
39 Rf2 Ng2-
40 Rf2 Ng2-
41 Kf2 Ng2-
42 Rf2 Ng2-
43 Rf2 Ng2-
44 Rf2 Ng2-
45 Rf2 Ng2-
46 Rf2 Ng2-
47 Rf2 Ng2-
48 Rf2 Ng2-
49 Rf2 Ng2-
50 Rf2 Ng2-
51 Rf2 Ng2-
52 Rf2 Ng2-
White resigns

After 53 Kb2 Qf2+ mate is imminent, or 53 Kxa4 Qh4 mate.

Four Nations League

The results from round four in the league for top British clubs were as follows: Barbican 4.5, Northwest Eagles 3.5, Invicta Knights 7, Bristol 1, Covent Garden 4.5, Slough 3.5. The overall scores (in match points) after four rounds are: Invicta Knights 7 (5 possible), Barbican 6, Covent Garden 5, Northwest Eagles 3, Bristol 2 and Slough 1.

Here is a fine win from round four by the World Girls' U-14 champion against an England women's team player.

White: Natasha Regan (Barbican)

Black: Ruth Sheldon (Northwest Eagles)

Four Nations Chess League, 1993

English Opening

1 c4 e5
2 f4 c3
3 g2 e5
4 Bg2 e5
5 e4 e5
6 d4 e5
7 Bg2 e5
8 c3 e5
9 Qc2 e5
10 Qc2 e5
11 Qc2 e5
12 Qc2 e5
13 Qc2 e5
14 Qc2 e5
15 Qc2 e5
16 Qc2 e5
17 Qc2 e5
18 Qc2 e5
19 Qc2 e5
20 Qc2 e5
21 Qc2 e5
22 Qc2 e5
23 Qc2 e5
White resigns

Winning Move, page 44

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Child-killer Allitt 'exploited system to stay out of jail'

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

BEVERLY Allitt, the serial child killer, is manipulating the prison system so that she can enjoy the relative comfort of a maximum security hospital while serving her 13 life sentences, a leading psychiatrist claims in a television programme to be screened tonight.

The allegation that Allitt, who was convicted in May of killing and maiming children in her care in Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital, is avoiding her punishment is made by David Enoch, a consultant psychiatrist at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

He said that Allitt was a cunning psychopath who should be sent back to prison because she was beyond treatment at Rampton Hospital, Nottinghamshire.

The former nurse, aged 25, was convicted at Nottingham Crown Court of killing four children, trying to kill three others and of six cases of causing grievous bodily harm. All of the offences were committed while she worked in the

Psychopaths such as Beverly Allitt should not serve their sentences in the comfort of a hospital, a consultant claims

children's ward at the hospital in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Allitt's trial was told she suffered from Munchausen's syndrome by proxy, a condition in which sufferers seek attention by secretly inflicting harm on others.

Dr Enoch, a leading expert on the syndrome, claims in the Central TV programme, *The Tuesday Special*, that Allitt should be sent back to jail because she is beyond treatment.

The programme, which focuses on the lives and treatment of psychopaths, serial killers and rapists at Rampton, will also include a three-minute interview with Allitt, where she will be shown embroidering teddy bears.

The programme-makers say that life at Rampton offers Allitt relative luxury, with visits to the gym, records, television and weekend dances. The Special Hospital

Service Authority tried to prevent the interview being broadcast, arguing that it would be anti-therapeutic and without public interest, but the High Court recently ruled in Central TV's favour.

Allitt threatened to go on hunger strike if the interview was broadcast.

Dr Enoch said: "Parliament has ruled that psychopaths can be admitted to special hospitals, but only if the particular person is amenable to treatment."

"However, I view Beverly Allitt as a psychopath who will remain a psychopath. They are narcissistic, egocentric people who show no remorse, who do not learn from past mistakes, who manipulate people consciously and unconsciously, and Allitt shows all these features."

"Saying she should be in Rampton does not hold water because I don't think there is a

treatment for her degree of psychopathy."

He claimed that Allitt's hunger strike threat was "maligning and manipulative", and that there should be urgent research into how to deal with psychopaths because medicine had no answer. "The person knows

what they are doing," Dr Enoch said. "Above all, psychopaths can hurt and cause suffering without suffering themselves... or as Allitt did, be able to kill babies in her care and show little or no remorse."

"That's the very discrepancy which makes psychopaths

even more dangerous. The charm on the one hand and being so manipulative on the other, and having these dangerous urges which are uncontrollable."

"I think that should be counteracted by setting a plan of management that they should remain in prison."



Beverly Allitt, the nurse who murdered four children, at Rampton Hospital where she was interviewed

Convicted rapist cites DNA test in appeal

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW reading of a genetic fingerprint has thrown into doubt the conviction of a triple rapist, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The re-evaluation undermines the evidence that helped to convict Andrew Deen, who is serving 10 years in jail for raping three women living in bedsit accommodation in Manchester five years ago.

Michael Mansfield QC, for Deen, said the potentially crucial new reading carried out by a German laboratory cast serious doubt on whether an acceptable DNA match had been shown between blood samples taken from Deen and a specimen of semen from a victim.

DNA profiling of Deen, 26, from Moss Side, Greater Manchester, pointed to him as the attacker in one case and he was convicted of the other two rapes on the basis of similar evidence. His genetic profile was said at his trial to match that of semen found on a rape victim, with a one in three million chance that the DNA profile came from anyone else.

Mr Mansfield said the re-evaluation was carried out on a photographic representation of a DNA analysis of Deen's blood. The original sample had been lost and a new analysis was impossible.

Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Owen and Mr Justice Latham, refused Mr Mansfield's request for an adjournment of the appeal and said further enquiries into the lost blood could be made while the hearing proceeded.

Deen's appeal is linked to a similar challenge by Michael Gordon, 29, of Levenshulme, Greater Manchester, who was



Mansfield: challenging original DNA analysis

jailed for 12 years at about the same time after a separate trial on two charges of rape. The judges have already reserved judgment on Gordon's appeal, which was based on admissions by a Crown scientific expert that it was possible there was no complete match between his blood and samples taken from the victims.

In Deen's appeal, Mr Mansfield is also expected to challenge the reliability of genetic profiling "probability" statistics. Deen was convicted solely on the basis that a DNA sample from his blood matched semen found on one of his victims.

The jailing of Deen and Gordon—who were unknown to each other and who have always protested their innocence—was thought to mark the end of a period of terror for university students living in bedsit accommodation in the Rusholme, Withington, Whalley Range and Longsight areas of Manchester.

The hearing continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Burglars steal from dead man

Burglars who broke into the home of a 75-year-old man in Sheffield and found him dead on the floor turned out his pockets as they searched the house for valuables.

The police said the thieves searched the house for cash and goods after manhandling the corpse.

A post-mortem examination showed that the man died from a heart attack and there was no sign of injury.

Pool death

David Foster, 10, of North Shields, Tyne and Wear, died after diving into a public swimming pool and hitting his head. He was treated for a cut lip but then collapsed.

Driver hurt

John Bowring, 30, a driver who ordered an apparently drunken woman off his bus in Oxford, was followed by a gang of men who sprayed deodorant in his face.

Attack case

John Rutter, 21, of Stepney, east London, who is charged with the attempted murder of Quaddus Ali on September 8, was given bail at Thames Magistrates' Court.

Police appeal

Police want to question Darren Pilcher, 20, in connection with the stabbing of his neighbour Patrick Maloney, 32, who died outside his house in Southend on Saturday.

Moss raids

People taking moss illegally for Christmas decorations are damaging conservation sites in Somerset.

In the swing

Allhallows School near Seaton, Devon, is building a nine-hole golf course to help pupils to perfect their swing.

Blanket coverage takes the cake

By ROBIN YOUNG

A GOVERNMENT definition of a hospital bed that ran to 167 words won a prize yesterday for bad use of language.

The value for money unit of the National Health Service Directorate at the Welsh Office won a Golden Bull award from the Plain English Campaign for its blanket coverage.

The unit's definition began: "A device or arrangement that may be used to permit a patient to lie down when the need to do so is a consequence of the patient's condition rather than a need for active intervention such as examination, diagnostic investigation, manipulative treatment, obstetric delivery or transport..."

The comedian Jack Dee presented the Golden Bulls, awarded for highly polished gobbledegook, in London. Other winners in-

cluded the London Borough of Southwark's legal services department and Thorn Security Ltd.

Awards for the use of easily understood English were won by, among others, the Inland Revenue. Plain English awards were presented by the former heritage secretary David Mellor.

The Plain English Campaign judged that ITN's *News at Ten* presented the clearest national television news. The *Financial Times* was said to use English better than any other national newspaper.

Despite the survival of bureaucratic art form, Christie Maher, director and founder of the Plain English Campaign, was well pleased. "The fruits of our labour are bursting through. We seem to go from strength to strength."

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هكذا من الأصل

Car sales accelerate by 19% but pick-up still proves patchy

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

SALES of new cars surged last month by 19.4 per cent, indicating the industry is continuing to climb out of the recession.

Motor manufacturers had not previously been convinced that the recovery had taken a firm hold. In the past three years, lost sales have totalled nearly £6.5 billion.

The November statistics, released yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), are the most convincing evidence yet that the industry has turned the corner. They will cheer not only car makers, but also government ministers searching for definite news of recovery.

There is continuing concern at the patchiness of the recovery, however, with some areas of the country clearly still struggling.

The pace of growth in sales has accelerated in each of the past three months: November's performance followed an 11.7 per cent September year-on-year increase and 15.5 per cent in October.

Roger King, SMMT director of public affairs, said: "This increase in registrations is quite startling. It illustrates

the determination of Britain's motor industry to drive economic recovery forward."

Sales in the first 11 months of the year were 1.7 million, 12.62 per cent ahead of last year, and the SMMT now expects total sales to top 1.78 million, an increase of 180,000 over 1992.

However, a regional analysis carried out by the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMI) covering the first ten months of the year shows that the recovery is patchy.

Eighteen counties fell below the national average of an 11.4 per cent year-on-year improvement in sales between January and October. While registrations in the Grampian area of Scotland shot up by 59.6 per cent, in Avon they collapsed by 54.5 per cent.

Dealers in counties such as Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Derbyshire and Warwickshire have all enjoyed increases about double the national average.

Some areas traditionally considered the most prosperous in the country showed barely any improvement. Suffolk and Cambridgeshire could not reach the single

percentage point, while sales in Surrey, usually regarded as the county of two-car drive-ways, improved by only 2.5 per cent. Greater London, the biggest single sales area in the country where 208,000 cars were registered, was also only 4.1 per cent ahead.

Neil Marshall, RMI director of economic affairs, said: "These figures justify the concerns we expressed to the Chancellor prior to the Budget over recovery prospects for this key sector."

"The clear message is that recovery in the new car market is now well under way although it is patchy, and in many parts of the country still extremely weak."

Although none of the regions suffered a fall in sales, Mr Marshall pointed out that many individual counties within the regions were missing out on the strength of recovery being enjoyed in other areas.

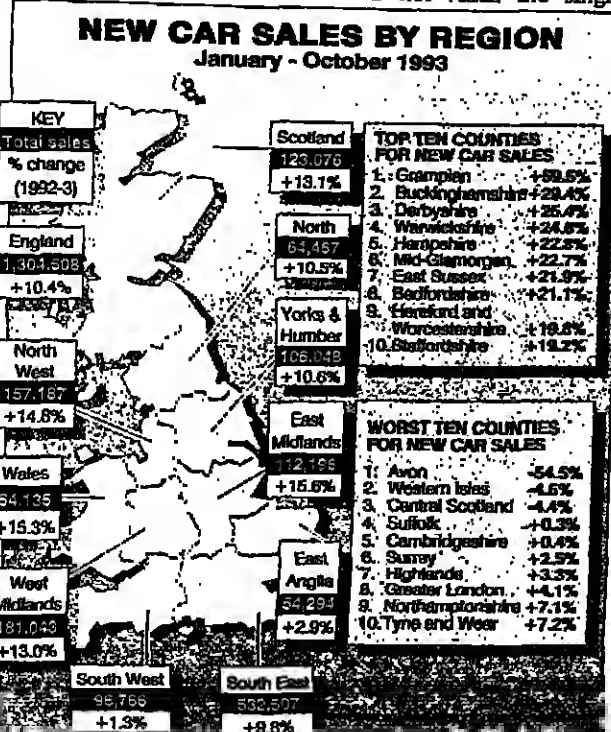
The RMI analysis shows the extent to which manufacturers distort local sales. The makers have been much criticised recently for registering cars as demonstrators or to company fleets simply to make sales charts look healthy.

Although the decline in Avon, for example, appears on the surface to be disastrous, it can probably be traced back to December last year, when Rover is believed to have registered 5,000 cars with its parent business, British Aerospace, which is based in the county. Rover has clearly not repeated the exercise and Avon's tally of company registrations is down by 73.9 per cent.

In Derbyshire, home to Toyota's new £800 million car production plant at Burnaston, company car sales were up by 28.4 per cent, one of the highest increases in the country, while overall sales increased by 25.4 per cent.

In Warwickshire, where Rover, Jaguar and Peugeot all have factories, an even bigger increase in company car registrations — 29.6 per cent — was recorded.

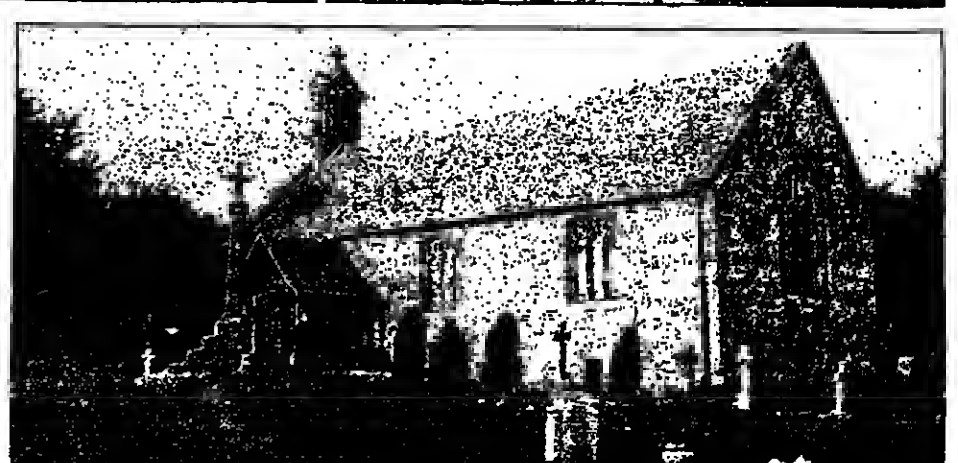
Borrowing down, page 24



Saintly visions to earn church £500,000



Four paintings that were insured by a village church for £250 are expected to fetch £500,000 at Sotheby's in London tomorrow. The pictures are thought to have been given to St Martin's at Little Ness, Shropshire, right, in about 1875. They include two wings of a 16th-century altarpiece painted with saints, above. Most of the sale proceeds will be used to provide affordable housing for young couples in Little Ness, population 150-200. Some will be spent on church repairs.



Showman Carrier hungers for success

By Robin Young

ONE of the great names of cookery is to make an unexpected return to the London restaurant scene. At the age of 70, Robert Carrier, the showman-gastronome whose name was synonymous with fine food in the 1960s and 70s, is about to announce a new restaurant venture.

"I am coming back with a sense of great excitement and desire," Mr Carrier said in London last week. "I believe we shall have go-ahead within a couple of weeks, and I am looking forward to the new challenges. There is so much happening in London on the food front and I want to be part of it."

Mr Carrier, an American who stayed in Europe at the end of the Second World War, came to London for the coronation in 1953, just in time to lift Britain out of post-war austerity with recipes that taught the British public to appreciate intricate combinations of herbs and spices, rich sauces, and vegetables that were still regarded as luxuries. His book *Great Dishes of the World*, sold two million copies in 12 languages.

Mr Carrier opened his own restaurant in 1966 in Camden Passage, Islington. The Times described the restaurant's food as "all that frustrated cooks dream about".

In 1971 he bought and refurbished Hinton Hall near Ipswich, Suffolk, running it as a restaurant with its own orchard and garden in the grounds. Hewon Michelin stars at both restaurants, became chairman of the Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain and was made an OBE.

In 1982 he closed Hinton Hall and two years later the Islington restaurant. He retired to Morocco, where he continued to write cookbooks. The latest, *Feast of Provence*, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, has just won Italy's top prize for gastronomic writing. It was not supposed that he would cook in Britain again.

"I love surprises," Mr Carrier said, "which is why I am not saying yet where or what the new restaurant will be. It will be central, though, and not in Islington. What is past is past."

New venue lures stars to festival

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Edinburgh International Festival has attracted some of the most celebrated musicians, soloists and conductors to launch its new venue, The Edinburgh Festival Theatre, which will be open in time for the 1994 festival in August.

Already signed up are the Argentinian pianist Martha Argerich and the French conductor Pierre Boulez. Australian Opera will perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* conducted by Baz Luhrmann. Scottish Opera and Opera North will also participate.

Conductors appearing next year include Carlo Maria Giulini, Christoph von Dohnanyi and Bernard Haitink. Charles Mackerras and Donald Runnicles. Among the soloists will be Frans Bruggen, Nuccia Focile, Midori, Galina Gorchakova, Carol Vaness, Jerry Hadley and Andras Schiff.

Arts, pages 31-33

Time running out to give the nation's past a future

By John Young

NEW measures are urgently needed to protect Britain's historic landscape from further destruction, according to a new report from the Council for British Archaeology.

The survey echoes a recent countryside review by the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology, which showed that nearly a quarter of Britain's hedges and a tenth of field walls had been lost since 1986.

One important site that has recently been badly damaged is Twyford Down, Hampshire, excavated to build the M3 extension. Dr Richard Morris, the council's director, said yesterday. Another is Thorne Moor in south Yorkshire, one of the few surviving examples of lowland raised bog in Britain, where the remains of a Bronze Age forest have been partly destroyed by peat extraction.

Areas currently under threat include the Gwent Levels, site of motorway approaches to the second Severn

crossing; the proposed long distance path along Hadrian's Wall, which provides a classic case of conflict between public access and the need to conserve an ancient monument; and plans to quarry in Carmel Woods near Llandybie, Dyfed, an ancient woodland that contains a series of spectacular limestone caves.

The report, *The Past in Tomorrow's Landscape*, emphasises that the nation's archaeological and historic inheritance is finite and irreplaceable. It is critical of the lack of a coherent policy for the care and interpretation of Britain's landscape as a whole, and calls for closer co-operation between archaeology and other branches of environmental conservation.

"Historic landscapes provide the framework in which we live and work," it says. "They are the link between ourselves and the past."

"The need to conserve historic landscapes is inseparable

from the need to protect the countryside. Archaeological deposits, once damaged, cannot be restored."

Dr Tim Champion, the council's countryside committee chairman, said yesterday: "A decision taken in a few minutes, for very short-term reasons, can destroy a landscape which has developed over millennia. Any cost-benefit analysis of the relation between conservation and today's economic needs must be seen in a perspective which is long enough to do it justice."

Archaeological scientists will begin investigating land around Stonehenge this month for traces of prehistoric remains linked to the 5,000-year-old stone circle. The discovery of buried ditches, pits and hearths in the surrounding fields could throw light on Stonehenge's origins and development.

Electronic equipment will be employed in the first full geophysical survey of the area.

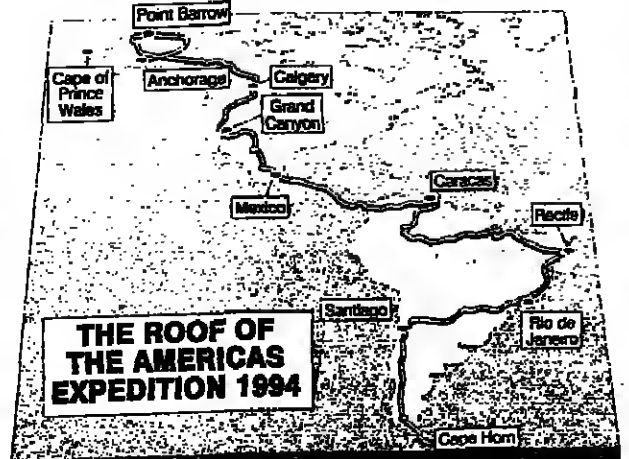
Army odyssey steers clear of drug barons

By Alan Hamilton

MEMBERS of a British Army expedition that aims to traverse the length of the Americas by climbing, sledging, canoeing, driving and sailing from Alaska to Cape Horn have had their plans disrupted by Colombian drug dealers.

The expedition, drawn from men of the Guards regiments and the Household Cavalry, had planned to cross overland from Central to South America through the Darien gap jungle between Panama and Colombia. But they have been refused permission by Colombian authorities after an estimated 30,000 murders were committed in the region last year, most of them connected with the cocaine trade.

Captain John Warburton-Lee of The Welsh Guards, who is leader of the Roof of the Americas expedition, said yesterday: "We have been told that it would be much too dangerous and that we would be obvious targets for the



coke runners. We shall take a tall ship to Venezuela instead."

A hundred men will tackle individual stages of the route, starting at Anchorage, Alaska, in January and ending 15 months later at Punta Arenas, Chile.

Captain Warburton-Lee, 30, and his first team will travel 2,500 miles across the Alaskan wilderness by dog sledge and

snowmobile in temperatures down to minus 60C and touch the northern and western extremities of the continent. They will then attempt a winter climb on Mount McKinley, at 20,320ft the highest peak in North America.

After a long drive through Canada and the United States, the team will spend 16 days with kayaks on the Colorado river through the

Grand Canyon. They will canoe the length of the Mazaruni river in the jungles of Guyana. Next is a voyage to Brazil to touch Recife, the eastern tip of South America, before crossing the continent to tackle Aconcagua, at 17,058ft the highest peak in South America.

Then comes an attempt at the first full 237-mile north-south crossing of the Patagonian ice cap in southern Chile. Finally, the last of the six teams will sail to touch the toe of the Americas at Cape Horn.

Captain Warburton-Lee, who three years ago led an expedition up seven peaks exceeding 10,000ft, said the latest venture formed an integral part of Army training. "It is difficult to simulate the stress of war in peace," he said. "This is about taking individuals to confront their fears, whether of heights, deep waters or the dark."

He intends to keep in contact with the outside world and to have supplies flown in wherever possible.

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Customers of John Major's Whitehall revolution get better service — at a price

The citizen's charter not only lives. It is expanding. At a Downing Street seminar last week, ministers discussed how to develop the charter further in education and transport. Some of this was practical, extending the present league tables of schools to, for example, the number of hours being taught by teachers. Other problems are conceptual: how to measure value added in schools and how to match market disciplines whereby less successful firms are squeezed out of the market by more successful ones. The public services revolution is

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

gathering momentum. It is now at the centre of political debate just as the upheavals of the private sector were in the 1980s. At stake is not just the scope of government, but also its ethos and relations with the public. Have we all become customers now?

Many other countries are reforming their public services, in some cases copying from Britain, as will be clear from a government sponsored conference which the

prime minister will address this morning. It remains very much his Big Idea and he is determined to push it forward throughout Whitehall.

Like many such reforms, there was no blueprint. It had many roots. The broader intellectual framework has been added on as the changes have developed. There is no real dispute that the old structure was flawed. In a recent lecture, Labour's Jack Straw accepted the deficiencies of "the old Fabian model for the delivery of public services. It was paternalistic, remote, 'Whitehall

knows best". It denied people sufficient choice for instances, over housing." He welcomed greater responsiveness to public needs.

But how far should the shift towards decentralised and semi-independent units be taken? The critics argue in Mr Straw's words, that there is "a pervasive and insidious programme to define almost all our public relationships by the market". To talk of customers is a distortion since taxpayers or social security claimants have no real choice. Similarly, Paddy Ashdown argued in a recent speech that the expansion of

quangos had created black holes of responsibility so that ministers dodge accountability.

William Waldegrave's defence is only half-convincing. In speech last week to a conference sponsored by the Social Market Foundation, the Manhattan Institute and The Times, he presented a hybrid model. This combines both a wide range of decentralised providers, whether schools, hospitals or executive agencies, and more traditional, hierarchical structures in, say, the armed forces and the police. Asserting his Tory credentials, he argued that "The

state needs a certain continuity and sense of its own past and perhaps particularly in a country without a written constitution, people who embody the inherited wisdom of its institutions." That was, he said, in addition to agents of change, outsiders, needed to bring about the reforms.

All that sounds fine as an ideal structure, offering both greater responsiveness and traditional public service values. There have been real gains in the delivery of services. But Mr Waldegrave's approach assumes that all in-

volved are as enlightened as he is and that decisions about the level and type of services can be divorced from politics. The row over the work of the Child Support Agency shows the impossibility of divorcing operations and policy. There is a democratic deficit. Too much at present depends on ministerial patronage which the Tories would be the first to protest about if they were in opposition. The public services revolution is lopsided. Citizens are not just consumers.

PETER RIDDELL

Sunday trade war sparks allegation of vote-rigging

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LAST-minute wrangling threatened to sour the build-up to a critical Commons vote to clear up Sunday trading laws. Tensions between rival campaign groups boiled over at Westminster as they battled for tactical supremacy in tomorrow night's vote.

With MPs having to choose new laws from three options, campaigners now fear that the order of voting could prove crucial. MPs will be given a free vote on each of the three options in order and, when one option receives a majority, any remaining will fall without a vote.

The rare procedure led to allegations yesterday of rig-

ging in advance of the first government legislation on Sunday trading for seven years. The three options, in provisional voting order, are:

- Unlimited Sunday opening, as in Scotland.
- Unlimited opening only on the four Sundays immediately before Christmas, Garden centres, DIY stores, motor supply shops and many small shops to trade all Sundays.
- Supported by Retailers for Shops Act Reform, led by Marks & Spencer, and the church-backed Keep Sunday Special campaign.
- Unlimited Sunday opening for small shops. Larger shops limited to six hours' trading.

Proposal supported by supermarket chains under the Shopping Hours Reform Council campaign.

Campaigners who want supermarkets to open for six hours have called for their option to be put in second place, fearing that it may fall without having been put to the vote. The back-room manoeuvring added to the tension yesterday as campaign groups fought for the votes of the few MPs remaining undecided. Although the undecideds may number no more than 30 MPs, they could prove decisive in a two-horse race which has excited the taste interest of book-makers.

Ladbrokes make the "six hours" option the warm favourite at 4/6, with the "four Sundays" choice at 11/10. Unlimited opening, favoured by John Major and senior ministers including Michael Howard and Kenneth Clarke, is lagging at 10/1.



The writer John Hillaby gallantly greets Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the Commons, at Guildhall, London, where she and Lord Howe of Aberavon, right, were awarded honorary civil law doctorates by the City University. Mr Hillaby was made an honorary doctor of letters

MPs fear explosion in car boot sales

By ANDREW PIERCE

MINISTERS are considering relaxing the rules governing the growing number of car boot sales in Britain, which are running at an estimated 20,000 a month.

MPs from all sides of the House fear that government proposals to end centuries-old restrictions on markets will lead to an explosion in their number. The Sunday trading bills could lead to even more.

The police say that car boot sales are a haven for VAT fraud, stolen goods and deception. Hugh Bayley, Labour MP for York, said: "We don't want them spiralling out of control."

Car boot sales began in the United States 20 years, selling mainly bric-a-brac. But the recession has turned them into a highly organised trade in everything from hi-fi equipment to cars.

Any plot of land can be used for the sales up to 14 days a year without planning permission. Most are held on Sunday and are virtually ignored by trading standard officers. In August the Department of the Environment published a barely noticed consultation paper proposing the ending of market franchise rights, dat-

ing back to the reign of Henry III in 1247, which enable market operators to object to any rival being set up within a radius of six and two-thirds miles.

Mr Bayley, who has had many complaints from retailers, is pressing for safeguards in the next wave of legislation. "Car boot sales have become a prime source of disposal of stolen goods. Many of them are selling fresh food. The incidence of food poisoning is increasing. The Government must find a way to regulate."

Douglas French, Tory MP for Gloucester, has joined the cross-party campaign and criticised "inadequate health and safety regulations" at car boot sales.

The British Chamber of Commerce is calling on local authorities and the police to monitor the situation. The chamber, which says it is not concerned with "amateur" boot sales, has targeted the "full-scale commercial events".

Option one of the Sunday trading bill would provide for total deregulation of Sunday trading. "It could lead to an even bigger explosion in car boot sales and markets," Mr Bayley said.

As campaigning entered its final 48 hours, pressure groups were lobbying MPs. Bakers, who support the opening of supermarkets on the four Sundays in December only, will lobby MPs today. They argue that supermarkets are taking an increasing slice of their market share. The Institute of Directors has firmly supported total deregulation after a survey of its 33,000 members found 70 per cent supported free choice.

If none of the options is chosen, Mr Howard, the home secretary, has pledged to introduce a single piece of legislation, probably the one which receives greatest Commons support, in a final attempt to clear up the law.

Several local authorities which currently stop large shops opening on Sundays say that they will change their policy from next Sunday if the Commons decides in favour of lifting restrictions.

Thatcher faces grilling at arms enquiry

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS Thatcher appears before Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair tomorrow to face a series of grilling questions about her knowledge of the illicit trade.

Lord Justice Scott will want to know:

- How much Lady Thatcher knew about the covert attempt by ministers and officials to relax the 1985 Howe arms export guidelines?
- Did she knowingly mislead Parliament when responding to questions about exports of British-made defence equipment to Iraq?
- Was she notified about applications by Matrix Churchill, the Iraqi-owned machine tool manufacturer, for licences to export equipment used to build missiles and shells?
- Was she aware that the Jordanian government allowed itself to be used as a front for military equipment ultimately destined for Iraqi armaments factories?

Expectations of a clash of wills between Lady Thatcher and Presley Baxendale QC, are running high. Although the former Prime Minister is renowned for her abrasive and adversarial style, Miss Baxendale, who is Lord Justice Scott's chief inquisitor, has developed a reputation for her ability to plunge the knife in with a smile.

Lord Justice Scott sent Lady Thatcher 76 pages of questions and evidence dealing with all aspects of the arms-to-Iraq affair in early November. Lady Thatcher's response was "very short", an enquiry spokesman said, because she wanted to deal with the issues more thoroughly in her oral evidence.

Lady Thatcher will be asked how much she knew about the decision by Foreign Office, Defence and Trade and Industry ministers to relax the arms export guidelines in December 1988, and why that change of policy was not disclosed to

Parliament and the public. The enquiry has already heard how ministers and civil servants drafted a series of replies to parliamentary questions which dismissed allegations that the Government had relaxed its policy on arms export sales to Iraq after the 1988 Iran-Iraq ceasefire.

In a reply to a parliamentary question from the Labour MP Harry Cohen in April 1989, Lady Thatcher categorically denied that the Government's arms export policy had been modified to take account of the Iran-Iraq ceasefire. The Scott team will ask Lady Thatcher whether she had been informed of the change in policy, and whether she misled Parliament.

Lady Thatcher will be asked whether she had been kept informed about the export licence applications made by Matrix Churchill, the Coventry-based machine tool manufacturer, which supplied vital equipment to Iraqi arma-

ments complexes. It was the abortive trial of three Matrix Churchill executives at the Old Bailey in November 1992 which led to the enquiry being set up.

During evidence from Alan Barrett, the Ministry of Defence official responsible for implementing the arms export guidelines, the enquiry heard last month how he thought Lady Thatcher had approved exports of machine tools to Iraq — despite intelligence reports that they would be used to manufacture missiles and shells — but could not remember how he came by the information.

Lady Thatcher will also be questioned about the use of Jordan as a diversionary route for exports of defence equipment to Iraq, the granting of Government export credit guarantees to help to finance the trade with Baghdad, and the proposal to sell the Iraqi regime Hawk fighter trainer aircraft.

Minister condemns attacks by students

By ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

JOHN Patten yesterday attacked the students who threw eggs at Michael Portillo, the Treasury chief secretary, at the weekend. And he revealed that a group of unruly students from Balliol College, Oxford, blocked him in at a village hall on Friday while he was holding a "surgery" for his constituents.

Speaking during the continuing Budget debate in the Commons, the Education Secretary, who represents Oxford West and Abingdon, said that he was "ashamed to represent yobish students from Oxford".

He said that students had banged on the walls and windows of the hall while he was talking to constituents and had caused considerable distress and fear. The attack, and that on Mr Portillo, were extremely bad examples of the bad behaviour of some students, Mr Patten said.

He also told MPs that after last week's announcement on local government spending, education had fully maintained its share of funding. Over the past decade, he said, there had been an increase in real terms of 47 per cent in funding per pupil.

Burns blows the whistle on workaholics

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT



Burns: calling a halt to Whitehall work ethic

WORKAHOLIC civil servants have been instructed to spend less time at the office and more time with their families.

On the basis that no one on their deathbed ever said: "I wish I'd spent more time at the office," Sir Terry Burns, the Treasury permanent secretary, has asked civil servants to reduce the number of briefings they prepare for ministers and other Whitehall departments.

For decades Britain's administrative elite have laboured under the conviction

that no one ever got promoted by leaving the office at ten to five. A review of Whitehall working practices has revealed, however, that too many Treasury officials spend too much of their time drafting and redrafting ministerial briefing papers.

"There's quite a lot of eight-11-18 working around here," a spokesman said. "We have looked at the way briefings are prepared and discovered that they can be made more efficient by cutting out unnecessary work."

The change is designed to ensure that high-flyers do not become exhausted early in their careers, while at the same time enabling more women with family commitments to rise to the top of the Whitehall tree. Women make up almost 45 per cent of Treasury staff, but account for only 7 per cent of the top 140 positions. In an effort to increase their numbers, Sir Terry yesterday met a group of junior female civil servants to discuss childcare provision and part-time working.

Call for flexible Budget rejected

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs clashed with the Government yesterday over calls for sweeping changes allowing them to change parts of the Budget. The all-party Commons procedure committee, which has pressed ministers to make fundamental changes to the Budget debate, accused the Government of failing to allow a "more informed and focused" consideration.

In September the committee called for MPs to be given the opportunity to amend decisions announced by the Chancellor by tabling amendments

increasing Government spending in one area while offsetting it with a tax rise.

The Government replied yesterday that it would cause confusion and be "particularly undesirable" to have individual amendments which were not consistent with other votes on taxation. It also rejected the suggestion of a two-day break between the Chancellor's Budget speech and the parliamentary debate, allowing MPs more time to consider the effects of the Budget.

The introduction of the first

unified Budget, incorporating taxation and spending plans, has heightened MPs' concern that the complex issues are not debated adequately. Sir Peter Emery, the committee chairman, said: "There is much new thinking, and having the Government and the House accept new thinking takes a very long time."

The Government conceded that changes could be made to allow the Budget to be considered by a standing committee, rather than by the whole House.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: health; prime minister. Conclusion of Budget debate. Lords (2.30): Education bill, second reading.

No doubt you're all off to Oddbins.

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Italians jilt their Fascist suitors in local polls

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S flirtation with neo-Fascism fizzled out yesterday as left-wing candidates became Mayors of Rome and Naples, crushing Alessandra Mussolini and Gianfranco Fini, the Italian Social Movement (MSI) candidates.

Signora Mussolini, granddaughter of Il Duce, captured 44.4 per cent of the Neapolitan vote against 55.6 per cent for Antonio Bassolino, the new mayor from the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS). In Rome, Francesco Rutelli, 39, the fresh-faced Green activist known to Italian newspapers as "the Bill Clinton of the capital" garnered 53.11 per cent against 46.89 per cent for Signor Fini.

Thousands of singing and dancing supporters of Signor Rutelli, many waving red flags, packed the Renaissance Square in front of the Campidoglio Palace town hall yesterday, celebrating into the early hours. Signor Rutelli struck a conciliatory note in his victory speech, saying the MSI, which has the majority on the city council, would work with him. "I will be the mayor not only of those who voted for me but of all the

Romans." Street parties were also held in the Jewish ghetto quarter where Elio Toaff, the Chief Rabbi, had had urged citizens not to offend the memory of thousands of Romans killed in Nazi-Fascist massacres and Second World War deportations. "The victory of Francesco Rutelli is a beautiful feeling of relief," Claudio Fano, chairman of the Roman Jewish Community, said.

Signora Mussolini, 30, conceded: "I have lost the race and the Reds have won. But I have not renounced my ambitions. I am going to try again next time." However, the defeat meant that the niece of Sophia Loren will not realise her ambition of greeting world leaders at a G7 meeting in Naples next summer.

"This is a clamorous result that unites Italy from Naples to Trieste, from Genoa to Rome, that restates in Venice what already happened in Palermo (where Leoluca Orlando, the anti-Mafia crusader, won outright in the first round)," *La Repubblica* said. The newspaper said Italy should be grateful to Naples where 25 per cent official unemployment had tempted



Neo-Fascist champion Alessandra Mussolini vowing to fight again after her rout in Naples, while Francesco Rutelli acknowledges cheers in Rome after triumphing over a neo-Fascist rival to be elected mayor

many to cast protest votes for the MSI. "Naples gave the rest of the country a hand when the rest of the country despaired of Naples." The lira gained to 989 on the mark and share prices traded higher by 1.25 per cent as investors decided the result offered the

best hope for political stability. Left-wing-backed candidates also won against the devolutionist Lombardy League in Venice and Genoa and against an MSI-supported challenge in Trieste. The mayoral result raised the prospect of a PDS-led government for the first

time since the old Italian Communist Party changed its name in 1991. But Franco Ferrarotti, leading sociologist, said the outcome of a general election might not be so clear-cut because a British-style first-past-the-post system will be used instead of the French-

style two-round elections for mayor that favoured left-wing alliances. Other commentators cautioned that the battle to create a stable "second republic" in Italy, after its corruption scandal discredited the political establishment, was not yet won.

Resurgent left promises to toe market line

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

ACHILLE Occhetto, 56, Italy's former Communist leader, swears loyalty to Nato, criticises President Yeltsin as an "old Bolshevik" and likes to tease capitalists that he is "a little more democratic than Deng Xiaoping".

The immediate reaction of businesses to the prospect of a government led by former Communists was not good, he told *The Times*, adding: "But then they saw that the alliance that we propose can lead to strong government. They reason that they managed to live with Deng Xiaoping in China, so they can live with Achille Occhetto, who is a little more democratic."

Winning the hearts and minds of capitalists is a main priority for the leader of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), whose chances of becoming Italy's next Prime Minister were bolstered when left-wing candidates won convincingly in Sunday's mayoral election run-offs.

"Our position is to safeguard the important gains of the [present] government for restoring health to the economy, defence of the lira and, above all, demolishing the public debt," Signor Occhetto said.

The PDS embraced the market and abandoned the class struggle in 1991 when Signor Occhetto presided over the change of name of the old Italian Communist Party (PCI). But a *Panorama*

magazine survey found that 55 per cent of entrepreneurs and managers believe the PDS is "state interventionist" and only 45 per cent think it "believes in the market". Some 46 per cent believe the party is "a real democratic alternative" and 10 per cent said they actively liked it.

Signor Occhetto emphasises that a PDS-led government would be open to moderates as well as his left-leaning allies in the local polls, the Greens, the anti-Mafia Rete and the moderate Democratic Alliance. "The government we want will not be a government of the left but of democratic alliance that must complete Italy's process of transition," he said.

He went on: "The old PCI already had broken with the Soviet Union... and declared it wanted to put itself under the Nato umbrella... We certainly have broken with the Soviet experience more than Boris Yeltsin, who gives off much of the acrid perfume of the old Bolshevik Communist."

He says he is ready to become Prime Minister but does not yet consider his capture of the Palazzo Chigi, the official residence, to be inevitable. "I believe the secretary of the strongest winning party can be Prime Minister but this is not automatic. Our party is prepared to support other candidates if it is useful for the alliance."

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Grain pact clears way to Gatt deal

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN and American negotiators yesterday finally nailed down an agreement on European Community subsidies for grain exports, which for three years has been one of the main stumbling blocks to a new world trade treaty.

Yesterday's agreement should pave the way for a rush of final compromises at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks in Geneva. But the prospects were almost immediately clouded by a sharp disagreement between Germany and France over last-minute demands by Paris that the EC should arm itself with new weapons for future trade wars.

Last weekend Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, sent letters to Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, who will chair Friday's summit. The messages are believed to list France's conditions for endorsing a Gatt deal, including that Britain and Germany should lift objections to changes in EC trade policies. France wants Europe to wield trade sanctions equivalent to America's "Super 301" trade laws and wants sanction decisions made by majority vote.

Günter Rexrodt, Germany's Economics Minister, said that Bonn would not agree. "It's not possible. We think it goes too far," he said.

Rene Steichen, the European Agriculture Commissioner, yesterday said that he and Mike Espy, the American Agriculture Secretary, had "finalised everything in one package", but refused to give details. American negotiators have clearly bowed to at least

some of the demands made by France to rewrite an earlier transatlantic agreement to reduce farm subsidies, originally made in November 1992.

America is thought to have asked for concessions in other areas as the price for reversing the earlier refusal to countenance any change in the 1992 Blair House agreement on agriculture. "Just look at the smile on our faces," Mr Espy said as he emerged from his talks with Mr Steichen.

Talks on other Gatt issues still in dispute continued between Sir Leon Brittan, the chief European negotiator, and Mickey Kantor, the US Trade Representative. Discussions on an ambitious trade liberalisation treaty must be completed within a week.

Tokyo: Progress made at the Brussels talks increased the pressure on Japan to reach a decision on whether it will open its rice markets to imports. Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, is expected to announce a decision this week and possibly as early as today.



Espy: US negotiators made concessions

Serbs help Muslim rebels gain ground

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

FIGHTING flared across Bosnia yesterday as the winter war began in earnest. Four died and 19 were injured in an attack on Serb-besieged Sarajevo and clashes were reported on most fronts.

Colonel Bill Aikman, the United Nations spokesman in Sarajevo, denied a Bosnian government allegation that UN forces were helping Muslim rebels in the northwest Bihać pocket. Rebels attacked government troops from the rear at the weekend after having apparently crossed Serb-held territory in Croatia under nominal UN control.

The rebels are led by Fikret Abdic, a local businessman and former Bosnian presidency member. He recently signed a peace treaty with surrounding Serbs and Bosnian Croats, and his enclave, centred on the town of Velika Kladusa, is believed to have

become an important sanctions-busting route. Colonel Aikman said the rebels had been helped by Serb forces in making a "significant" advance against the Bosnian army.

In Serbia, the government is to begin distributing free bread to the needy today. Inflation is running at more than 20,000 per cent a month, while the minimum wage has now shrunk to barely £4. A general election is to be held on December 19. A charity connected with the main opposition party recently attracted much publicity because it had been distributing free bread and cabbages to up to 50,000 people.

In a further sign of deteriorating conditions, parts of Belgrade have experienced their first power cuts in what is expected to be a gruelling winter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton still cautious over Korea

Washington: President Clinton said yesterday that he was not discouraged by North Korea's response to demands for inspections of its nuclear sites. "We were hoping that we could move more quickly, but I'm not entirely discouraged," he replied when asked about his reaction to Pyongyang's offer to allow inspectors access to five minor nuclear facilities. North Korea denies that it is developing nuclear weapons, but the United States and other nations want it to open its nuclear development facilities to international inspection to allay all suspicions. According to news reports, North Korea said in its limited inspection offer that the two most sensitive facilities, at Yongbyon, would be out-of-bounds. Western intelligence says these plants could be used to separate plutonium for a nuclear bomb. (Reuters)

Appeal fails

Johannesburg: Clive Derby-Lewis, 57, sentenced to death for the murder of Chris Han, the Communist leader, failed to have his trial reopened on the grounds that he had been ill-advised by his counsel.

Eta dialogue

Madrid: A survey reveals that most Basques favour peace negotiations between the separatist Eta group and the Spanish government. Eta violence has cost 700 lives in 25 years.

Family feud

Karachi: Nusrat Bhutto, mother of Benazir, the Prime Minister, is disputing her overthrow as Pakistan People's Party leader by her daughter, claiming she was appointed for life. (Reuters)

Smoking guns

Manila: President Ramos set fire to 4,000 guns seized from the private armies of political warlords and criminal syndicates. The melted metal is to be turned into ploughs for farmers. (Reuters)

Poles targeted

Paris: The authorities here are to crack down on networks of Polish nationals smuggling vodka, caviar and cigarettes into France as well as bringing in illegal immigrants. (AFP)

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ALL CURRENCES
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German spy chief stays free to fight jail sentence

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

MARKUS Wolf, the former spy-master of East Germany, was yesterday sentenced to six years in jail for treason and bribery, ending a controversial seven-month trial during which Communist agents, betrayed lovers, and secret police victims gave a devastating account of four decades of Cold War espionage.

The final curtain, however, has not fallen on the case. Although Wolf arrived at the Düsseldorf court with luggage — prepared for an immediate transfer to prison — the judge ruled that he could remain free until his appeal is heard. The 70-year-old former chief of East German espionage hopes not only that an appeal will reduce his sentence, but that the Constitutional Court will rule against any sentencing of East German spies.

Wolf left his job in 1986. His successor, Werner Grossmann, facing similar charges in a Berlin court, successfully pleaded that spying for East Germany was in no sense treason: rather, it was a patriotic service for a legally recognised state. If East German spies were to be put in the dock, then so should West German agents. The Constitutional Court will rule before next summer on that question, and Wolf, who has made an identical argument for his release — "exactly which state am I supposed to have betrayed?" — will also be affected by that ruling.

■ Markus Wolf's claim that his Cold War role was that of a patriot rather than a traitor failed to convince a judge. But many Germans believe him and he hopes an appeal will save him from six years in prison

Wolf presented himself throughout the trial as a patriotic German and a faithful civil servant. His arguments, aided perhaps by his smooth, unruffled manner, seem to have convinced many Germans. Yesterday, as he entered the windowless courtroom, women rushed forward to kiss him, thrust roses in his hands, and even



Santiago: Erich Honecker, above, the former East German leader suffering from liver cancer, was rushed to a clinic here after losing consciousness. His condition was described as unstable. (Reuters)

placed three porcelain pigs — symbols of good luck — on his table.

When the verdict was announced, sympathisers shouted "shame" and "victors' justice". The sentence was, in fact, a year less than that demanded by the prosecutor, and three years less than the maximum possible.

The trial must rank as something of a success for Wolf, who had complained that he was being treated as a political prisoner and being held responsible for all unpunished sins of the East German state. But closer study of the trial documents, and the testimony of more than 90 witnesses, has made a nonsense of his claim to have been merely a "good German" doing his duty for the Communist state and a future united Germany.

It was demonstrated that Wolf supervised dozens of top agents who seduced, blackmailed or bribed West Germans into betraying their country and the Nato alliance. Wolf's biggest "success" was planting the spy Günther Guillaume at the side of Willy Brandt, the Chancellor, thereby contributing to his downfall. The general authorised the bribing of countless West German officials, and for three decades as spymaster he was fully

wedded to the system. During his tenure, an attempt was made to poison a West German couple who were organising escape routes out of East Germany.

The hearing also put paid to the myth that Wolf was in some way a crypto-dissident. After he was forced to resign in 1986, Wolf wrote an elegant memoir that implicitly criticised contemporary socialism; he resurfaced during the demonstrations of November 1989, when he depicted himself as a reforming socialist.

But at least two alternative versions of this flattering biography emerged during the trial. The first was that he was forced out of office because his then wife had an affair with a Western businessman. The marriage ended, the wife was placed in a psychiatric ward and denied access to their son, and Wolf had to change his career.

An alternative version can also be patched together from the testimony of the past few months: Wolf, who had regular contacts with Vladimir Kryuchkov, the KGB chief, was being groomed by Moscow as part of a team to replace Erich Honecker, and thus save communism.

After the verdict was read yesterday, the court was briefly plunged into darkness by a power failure. "You see, the lights are going out in this country," shouted one Wolf sympathiser in the public gallery. In fact, much light has been shed on one of the murkiest periods of modern German history.



Markus Wolf, the former East German spymaster, carrying a bag on his way to court for sentencing in Düsseldorf yesterday. With him is his wife, Andrea

Caesar Kohl destined to meet a Brutus

BY ROGER BOYES

Helmut Kohl slipped into imperial mode yesterday, shrugging off a humiliating defeat in local council elections and urging his Christian Democrats to become fighting fit for a long year of battle at the ballot box. If Herr Kohl is Caesar, refusing to contemplate the bad omens, then who is Brutus? Where are the lean and hungry men ready to lunge at their leader?

The plump self-sufficiency demonstrated by the German Chancellor, as he addressed an economic conference in Bonn yesterday, spoke volumes. Support for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is melting away, in part because of popular disillusionment with Herr Kohl, the architect of German unity, who has failed to bridge the gulf between east and west Germans. Yet the CDU cannot hope to win the general elections without him. Christian Democratic politicians are trying to distance themselves from him, to show their points of difference with him, and use that as a way of digging reluctant voters out of their holes. The real plot to unseat Herr Kohl will come into effect only after the October general elections. If the Chancellor loses eastern Germany — as he now seems set to do — and if the Free Democratic coalition partner stumbles, then there will be little choice but to embrace the opposition Social Democrats in a grand coalition. In that case, Brutus would make his move.

That man could well be Dr Kurt Wiedenkopf, Prime Minister of the state of Saxony. An urbane economics professor, he has stayed in touch with the social liberal centre of the CDU. As Herr Kohl has moved the party to the right, the Chancellor has tried to

crush or marginalise those social liberals critical of his leadership style. The Brandenburg elections are thus more than a local skirmish. The Social Democrats won resoundingly with 33.5 per cent of the vote, while the post-Communist PDS, with 21.3 per cent, surged forward and came close to being the second strongest party. The CDU lost one third of its vote, and scratched up barely 22 per cent.

There is now a strong probability that other East German states will shift leftwards. There is a broad sense that the Chancellor has broken his promise to make eastern Germany a "blooming landscape" within four years. The east is paying a higher price for the recession than the west. Most pundits believe that the Christian Democrats will be unable to hold the state of Saxony Anhalt. The political arithmetic is thus loaded against the Chancellor's political survival. The Social Democrats have a real possibility of gaining a two-thirds majority in the Bundestag (the upper chamber), which represents the provincial states. Such a majority can only be outvoted by a two-thirds majority in the lower chamber, the Bundestag. Brandenburg, therefore, reveals much about the mood of the country.

The Chancellor will need an electoral miracle to achieve such a meaty majority. He is therefore condemned to share power with the Social Democrats in one way or another.

There are no more rabbits to be tugged out of hats, no more magic formulas. His election platform — law and order, family values — no longer seems adequate.



Vienna letter bombs blamed on neo-Nazis

BY ROGER BOYES

A BOMB ripped through a lawyer's office in the centre of Vienna yesterday in the latest of a series of attacks apparently inspired by neo-Nazis. Helmut Zilk, the Mayor of the Austrian capital, was seriously injured in one of the attacks. Franz Loeschner, the Interior Minister, said the bombers were "highly intelligent, albeit unhinged people from the anti-foreigners milieu". Altogether ten letter bombs have now been received by prominent Austrians associated with helping foreign refugees. Some of the targets have alerted the bomb disposal squad, but others, like Dr Zilk and Silvana Meixner, a Croatian-born television presenter, were injured.

Dr Zilk was said yesterday to be out of immediate danger but his hand has been mutilated. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Jewish community and was one of the moving forces behind Vienna's new museum of Jewish culture. Police initially believed the Serbian Black Hand Gang was behind the attacks but, as the net of victims has widened, so it has become clear that a neo-Nazi formation is responsible. An arson attack: The legal confusion surrounding the trial of two German neo-Nazis accused of killing three Turks in an arson attack in Mölten in northern Germany deepened yesterday when the judge again deferred his verdict because a new witness for the prosecution has been found. The authorities fear the verdict, when it comes, will provoke neo-Nazi attacks against people on a published hit-list or against foreigners.

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THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY A hope for the future

Yeltsin party funds thrive despite banker's murder

FROM ANNE MCELVOY
IN MOSCOW

Parties are attracting cash donations from big businesses hoping for a return on their political investment. The Communists have to rely on impecunious pensioners



RUSSIAN
ELECTION

For Democratic Reforms — have old-style managers of vast enterprises on their slates. The losers are the Communists, who are relying on personal donations from the people who have lost ground in the reforms, often low earners or pensioners. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the extreme nationalist, has enough funds from undisclosed sources for frequent television broadcasts and is frank about his desire to acquire more. He has refused interviews to the foreign press because it will not pay him for the pleasure of listening to him describe how foreign companies should be expelled.

"The more money, the more success. The more success the better chance to save our holy Russia from alien influences,"

his spokesman said. Few benefactors to any party want to be identified and the murder in the past few days of two prominent financiers has sharpened the instinct for secrecy. Nikolai Likhachev, who headed the politically influential Russian Agricultural Bank, was shot dead last Thursday by a sniper as he entered his apartment block in central Moscow. The unnamed female head of a trading group, thought to have been a backer of Yeltsin's Choice, was also shot down in her car on the same day.

The deaths have brought demands from Boris Kondrashev, a senior figure in the Moscow police directorate and a Yeltsin's Choice candidate, for better protection of businessmen. "Otherwise," he said, "they will withdraw from public life and live behind electric fences and high walls at the very time we need them to take part in the rebirth of our society."

Sergei Zverev, deputy director of the Most group of building and financial companies, and one of the most influential pro-democracy big businessmen in Russia, agrees. "One political environment is fruitful to us, the other is lethal," he said. "We should

not be cowed into hiding our views: that is exactly what the opponents of change want." But he is strengthening his personal security team, just to be on the safe side.

As the campaigning entered its final days, President Yeltsin, worried that Russia's low-paid workers may vote against his draft constitution or fail to turn out at all, has almost doubled the minimum wage for government workers in a move to compensate those worst affected by inflation. The new minimum salary will rise from 7,740 roubles (€4) to 14,620 roubles (€7.50). Undergraduate and research grants, which are also pitifully low, will be raised by similar amounts.

Russia has no legally enforceable minimum wage and the actual national average wage is ten times the lowest government wage. State sector workers often hold down several jobs at a time to earn a salary on which they can subsist.

Miners walk out: Tens of thousands of Russian coal miners, angered over unpaid wages and planned mine closures, went on strike to press their demands with the government a week ahead of elections.

About 30,000 miners at ten of the 13 pits in the far north mining city of Vorkuta walked off the job. They were joined by workers at a handful of other mines in various parts of the country, union officials said. Negotiations between a government delegation and union leaders continued in Moscow and miners at other main coal centres said a decision on whether to join the strike from today would depend on the outcome of the talks.

In addition to immediate payment of back wages, miners at Vorkuta were demanding a fresh overall accord with the government on pay increases and improved living conditions, as well as guarantees their salaries would be paid on time in the future. The government has announced plans to shut down at least four of the 13 mines at Vorkuta and many workers there have not been paid since October or even earlier. (AFP)



Obtivated to his lures, an old man strolls past a big poster advertising a Peking hair and beauty salon. Such places, once frowned on, are experiencing a boom in today's China

Door kept open for Peking

BY JONATHAN PEYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday left the door open to further talks with China over the future of Hong Kong, but gave no indication of whether the reforms will be published on Friday and introduced to Hong Kong's Legislative Council on December 15.

Mr Hurd denied that Britain was breaking off talks with Peking, and confirmed that the Government has proposed a further round of

negotiations to take place later this month. "We strongly hope that the talks will continue," he told MPs.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow Foreign Secretary, offered support for the reform plans but demanded to know why talks had broken down so comprehensively. "We need to know more about why no progress has been made," he criticised the language of Mr Hurd's statement.

negotiations to take place later this month. "We strongly hope that the talks will continue," he told MPs.

Buddhist way lures the lowly Harijans

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

TENS of thousands of Dalits (formerly called Untouchables or Harijans) converted to Buddhism at a mass ceremony in north India yesterday in an attempt to escape their birth-given lowliness.

Hindu caste tradition requires Dalits — meaning the Oppressed — to work with filth and death. They are latrine cleaners, sweepers, cleaners of corpses and bonded labourers. Mahatma Gandhi called them Harijans (Children of God), a term regarded as patronising.

The scale of conversions yesterday upset influential Hindu organisations. Most of India's Buddhists are descended from Hindus who converted in recent decades, but changing faiths has yielded little. Buddhists are also among India's poorest.

Caste barriers are blurring in cities, but the prejudice of centuries keeps most Dalits and tribespeople beyond the pale. They have been helped little by reserved government jobs and educational places, many unemployed due to bureaucratic resistance.

Yesterday's conversions took place, paradoxically, as a new government elected principally by low-castes and Dalits took power in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, marking a social revolution that has quietly removed Brahmins and other high castes from the pinnacles of power.

This takes the country's most populated state — it contains 140 million people — into uncharted territory. Southern India crushed Brahminical power decades ago.

The conversions, involving nearly 100,000 Dalits, took place in the state of Bihar, where the Buddha received enlightenment in 528 BC at Bodhi Gaya.

Caucasus mission

Moscow: President Yeltsin flew yesterday to the troubled north Caucasus region in an effort to find a solution to the Ossete-Ingush conflict (Anatol Lieven writes). The intention was also to boost his image as Russia's supreme leader and trouble-shooter.

Mr Yeltsin met Ossete and Ingush leaders, but after initial talks his spokesman played down the chances of achieving a solution to the conflict. Sergei Khetagurov, the North Ossetian Prime Minister, responded negatively to Mr Yeltsin's proposal that Ingush refugees from Ossetia could return to their homes under military protection. "To return refugees at bayonet point is impossible. This will only lead to new clashes," Mr Khetagurov was quoted as saying.

Ethnic fighting between Ossetes and Ingush has cost at least 200 lives and created some 50,000 Ingush refugees.

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All this week The Times is continuing to feature holidays organised by the tour operators participating in this offer. For full details, simply phone the Brochure Hotline or send a written request to The Times Brochure Service (see below). You may request as many free brochures as you wish. Getting your discount is so simple: continue collecting the special tokens which will appear in The Times until Saturday. You need collect only ten tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. If you have just read about the offer, you can still obtain tokens from copies of The Times published since November 18 from the Backdates Dept, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form. If you choose to collect 20 tokens, you can use the additional ten on a second holiday.

- You can take your holiday(s) at any time to the end of December 1994, and you can choose any number of holidays, providing you have collected ten tokens per holiday.
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On the downhill slope: skiing in Andorra

Discover the wild life

One thing that everyone says about Andorra is that it is different. It is a tiny country in the Pyrenees tucked between France and Spain, famous for mountains, skiing and duty free shopping though once deriving its financial independence from the export of food, wine and tobacco.

The country enjoys a unique political and economic position being a joint principality under the sovereignty of France and Spain. This goes back to a series of marriages and disagreements resulting in the act of Partage in the thirteenth century. The same act forbade the building of castles in the area so that unlike the regions around there are no castles to be spotted. It is the only country with Catalan as the official language.

Although not famed for wonderful cuisine the local dishes are based on the food available in the mountains so there is plenty of river trout, chestnuts, wild mushrooms, rabbit, horse, goat and game such as wild (the Pyrenean chamois), grouse, pigeon and even wild boar on the menus in restaurants as well as tourist fare.

There are only two main roads into the country, one each from France and Spain but there are numerous

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mountain paths which have been used for centuries by pagans (smugglers) carrying Andorran tobacco and other contraband across borders. These stories are part of the romance of the mountainous region. A romance which affects many visitors.

Although the first impression of Andorra may be of huge developments and duty free hypermarkets, you can still escape if you want to. There are pretty stone built villages and Romanesque churches dotted around the country even if there are no castles hidden in these mountains. Sent Miquel d'Engolasters, an eleventh century chapel, is perhaps the most attractive in the area.

There are two sorts of wild life in Andorra, that enjoyed by tourists making the most of the duty free status of the country and the other

kind — specific to the region — which is more difficult to find. The nocturnal and nomadic wild boar, deer, hares and hard inhabit the wooded slopes, while golden eagles, griffon vultures and other birds of prey can be seen in the air. The capercaillie and the ptarmigan are native to the country but difficult to spot hidden in undergrowth. The last recorded sighting of the unaggressive brown bear was in 1978 but the variety with a sore head can be found most mornings on the ski slopes.

Three of the most popular Andorran resorts are Pas de la Casa, Soldeu and Encamp. Pas de la Casa, a combination of ski station and duty free bazaar, is linked to Grau Ròig, a small village in a neighbouring valley, and the skiing includes 30 lifts and 70km of pistes. Soldeu has 22 lifts and 60km of pistes with some very pretty and almost tranquil runs through trees. These pistes are also used by visitors staying at Encamp which is further down the slopes but closer to the shops.

Andorra is an excellent place to learn to ski and have a good time without spending a fortune.

HEATHER ALSTON

SKI TOP DECK is in its fifteenth year of operation and has firmly established itself as a specialist operator to Andorra, Austria, Switzerland and France. Accommodation ranges from family-run hotels, self-catering apartments, to the "upper deck" hotels with facilities such as saunas, jacuzzis and sometimes a swimming pool. As well as a free ski guiding service, Ski Top Deck also offers generous group discounts and a no surcharge guarantee. Ski passes are not included.

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KIRCHBERG, Austria. A typically beautiful Tyrolean village. The excellent skiing is part of the great Kitzbühler Circuit. You stay at Club Habitat, a wonderfully converted sixteenth century chalet, which is suited to the young and lively skier. Rooms are on a multi-share basis and have shared facilities. Price includes cooked breakfast and dinner on six nights, flights from Gatwick to Salzburg and coach transfers. Departs 15 January, 7 nights, £199 (down from £249) Save £50. Departs 22 January, 7 nights, £215 (down from £269) Save £54.

LAUTERBRUNNEN, Switzerland. A small and quiet Swiss village. Accommodation is in twin rooms; facilities are shared. Price includes a cooked breakfast every day and a 3-course dinner on 6 nights, flights from Gatwick to Zurich and coach transfers. Departs 15 January, 7 nights, £215 (down from £269) Save £54. Departs 22 January, 7 nights, £207 (down from £261) Cabin style Save £52.

SOLDEU, Andorra. Situated high in the Pyrenees, Soldeu enjoys an excellent snow record. You stay at the Hotel Bruxelles 1800, shared facilities. The atmosphere is warm and friendly and the night life is lively. Price includes continental breakfast and a 3-course dinner every day, flights from Gatwick to Toulouse and coach transfers. Departs 15 January, 7 nights, £183 (down from £237) Save £54. Departs 22 January, 7 nights, £196 (down from £250) Save £54. Departs 05 February, 7 nights, £231 (down from £285) Save £54.

Q: How do I book my holiday?
A: All communication and booking forms must be sent to The Times Travel Office, Cox & Kings, St James Court, 45 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF.

Q: How do I pay for my holiday(s)?
A: You must pay the relevant tour operator's deposit at the time of booking with their signed booking form. You must pay the balance due for your holiday(s) 10 weeks prior to departure. Cox & Kings will forward the relevant tour operator's invoice to you within three weeks of receiving your booking form, deposit and tokens. Your invoice will be for the balance of your holiday cost less the discount and less the deposit paid. If you wish to pay by credit card a surcharge of 1.5 per cent will be levied.

Q: Is it possible to book my holiday(s) before I collect all ten tokens?
A: You must collect all ten tokens and fill in the relevant operator's booking form with

the deposit. Only then will your holiday(s) be confirmed.

Q: What happens if the holiday(s) of my choice is sold out?
A: Cox & Kings will inform you as soon as this happens and you may select an alternative date or destination or your deposit will be returned.

Q: When can I book the holiday(s)?
A: Bookings can be made when you have your ten tokens and relevant booking form. You must book your holiday(s) by February 20, 1994.

Q: To what does the discount apply?
A: It applies to the specific departure date and tour offered by the operator. Any number of people booking together on one booking form, together with ten tokens attached, can take part in the offer. It excludes any other supplements, including single room supplements, any other holiday, insurance, car hire (except where car hire is part of the specific tour offered by the operator), special

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Q: What happens if I miss or lose a token?
A: We will be publishing a total of 21 tokens and backdated copies will be accepted (though photocopies will not be accepted). So you should be able to catch up.

Q: Do I have to take any specific insurance?
A: No, you may arrange your own insurance, but you must ensure that you are fully covered for the holiday booked and forward details of the policy arranged when mailing your booking form.

Q: Are the operators bonded?
A: Yes, all the operators featured in this offer are bonded and have complied with the financial bonding requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority or the Passenger Shipping Association. This means that you will be repatriated/refunded in the unlikely event of the operators insolvency.

مكتبة الأصل

Space walk record set as Hubble is cured of the jitters

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

A SPACE walking record capped a successful operation on board the space shuttle Endeavour yesterday to remove two old solar arrays from the Hubble space telescope and replace them with two new, British-built, ones.

The 40ft arrays, long wings studded with solar cells that turn sunlight into electricity, had been causing the telescope to jitter. The new ones, designed and built by British Aerospace Space Systems for the European Space Agency, have thousands of tiny Teflon discs to counter the effects of heat and cold.

Preliminary tests indicated that the new arrays were working perfectly. The successful replacement marked another ground-breaking day in the 11-day mission to restore the telescope to health. A spokesman for Nasa in Houston, Texas, said that Tom

Akers, who took part in the replacement work, had now logged a total of 22 hours and 50 minutes space walking on shuttle missions. It beat by one minute the previous record.

Originally the US space agency had planned to store the old arrays in Endeavour's cargo bay for return to Earth. But one of the devices was found to be bent. In a revised plan, Kathy Thornton, one of the seven crew members, used a triangular handle to unhook the bent array. Minutes later, as Endeavour edged away firing its jets, the 400lb structure spun away into orbit where it will eventually burn up in the atmosphere.

Early this morning Story Musgrave and Jeffrey Hoffman were scheduled to make the third of five scheduled space walks to replace the Wide Field Planetary Camera. The new version includes cor-

rective optics designed to compensate for manufacturing flaws in the telescope's primary mirror.

As the astronauts celebrated, claims emerged that the shuttle fleet is suffering pressure build-ups in their solid booster rockets during launch. Some current and former Nasa engineers claimed, in an ABC broadcast in America, that there had been peaks or pressure spikes detected during launches earlier this year. One engineer said the shuttle fleet should be grounded.

A spokesman for Nasa responded: "As the boosters are fired, we are getting some molten slag produced, but not enough to cause a big enough build up of pressure." He said that the main allegation had come from a former Nasa engineer who was now working for a company hoping to build a new kind of booster.



Rafael Caldera, Venezuela's populist presidential candidate, waving to supporters from his campaign headquarters in Caracas. Although Venezuela's electoral council had still not declared a winner yesterday, 24 hours after polls closed in Sunday's general elections, the 77-year-old

lawyer was almost universally recognised as the country's next President and one by one his rivals conceded defeat (David Adams writes from Caracas). The result appeared to alleviate fears of a military coup after months of hysteria, including two coup attempts and a series of

bombings. The fears of a coup were serious enough for two senior Washington officials to visit Caracas last week to issue a warning that America would take drastic action if democracy was overturned.

Señor Caldera, who campaigned on an anti-corruption platform, is a

pillar of the establishment and was once President in the 1970s.

His first announcement was to promise a low-cost inauguration, contrasting with the lavish spending of his disgraced predecessor, Carlos Andrés Pérez, who was impeached on embezzlement charges.

Star role for agile woman

By Ian Brodie

DR KATHRYN Thornton, the 41st astronaut who helped replace the Hubble space telescope's damaged solar panels, is to make another space walk tonight, when she will play a key role in installing lenses to correct the telescope's flawed vision.

The lenses are housed in a 600lb box, but in the weightlessness of space she should have no difficulty. Her size should, in fact, put her at an advantage over her male colleagues.

Susan Rainwater, a space-walk trainer for Nasa, said: "The fact that a smaller woman was selected demonstrates that the task requires more agility than physical strength. It's finger-tip force and 90 per cent mental."

During her space walk Dr Thornton must follow hundreds of pre-learned procedures while wearing a thick space suit that astronauts say is equivalent to being mummified. Everyone at Nasa is convinced that KT, as she is known to the crew, will be

able to cope. In addition to her rigorous training, she goes scuba diving and skiing for recreation. At 41, she weighs 8 stone 3lb, has brown hair and green eyes and is married to Stephen Thornton who, like her, has a PhD in science. She has three daughters, Carol, 11, Laura, eight, and Susan, three.

She went to school at Montgomery, Alabama, then earned three physics degrees



Thornton: mother of three young daughters

in nine years. She was awarded a Nazi post-doctoral fellowship and continued her research at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg. She later worked for a while as a physicist for the US Army, but joined Nasa nine years ago and qualified as an astronaut a year later.

She is a veteran of two previous space flights, the first in 1989. Her second mission was in May last year on the maiden launch of the shuttle Endeavour. Before the current flight she had logged 333 hours in space and more than seven hours of space walking.

In Nasa's determinedly gender-neutral culture, the only bow to Dr Thornton's femininity came last Friday when she had a bad day with her hair. With her weightless locks floating up and blocking a camera view of the crew cabin, she was gently reproached by mission control, which told her she looked like "a true hairball".

Clinton plugs into that old-time religion

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AN INCREASINGLY important facet of Bill Clinton's presidency has become his quest for spiritual fulfilment.

Evidence has been growing for weeks that he is intensifying the link between his religion, which has always been a part of his life, and his role as leader of the American people. Now he has spoken of it for the first time in an interview published yesterday by *US News and World Report*.

He admitted he is still "working through" where his spiritual journey will take him and the country. He has become convinced that America needs not just new programmes but a spiritual renewal that emphasises shared values, including hard work, self-discipline and commitment to family. One of the

■ A year into office, the President feels he can be effective in shaping national debate on moral values. He is calling in theologians and historians to set a new course

most important lessons of his first year in office, he said, is that he can be effective in shaping national debate in spiritual matters.

"I think I underestimated the importance of the President's voice, of just being able to speak about these issues in a coherent, clear and forceful way," he said, adding that he has found his words can galvanise and mobilise the nation's attention.

Mr Clinton has begun a series of private prayer breakfasts with groups of religious leaders to discuss moral and social issues — last week's session focused on how to help

victims of AIDS. The White House is recruiting theologians, historians and university presidents for similar conversations with Mr Clinton in the coming months.

The President revealed that, as part of his spiritual search, he goes through "a little ritual" every Saturday evening when he has a few quiet moments that will come as a surprise even to his most senior aides. He calls the home number of the Rev Rex Horne, who was his pastor for years at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. "We talk about his family, mine, where we are," Mr

Clinton said. "He tells me that they're going to pray for me in church the next day, and I laugh and tell him how much I need it."

Mr Clinton's growing curiosity with the need for spirituality in modern life is reflected in his recent bedside reading, which includes *The Culture of Disbelief* by Professor Stephen Carter of Yale Law School, and *The Spirit of Community* by Professor Amitai Etzioni of George Washington University.

Putting the message of these authors into practice, Mr Clinton sat up until three in the morning on the night before the Middle East peace agreement was signed on the White House lawn last September, reading the Book of Joshua and rewriting his keynote speech to make it more inspirational.

Mr Clinton remains firmly attached to his roots as a

Southern Baptist. He remains pro-choice on abortion, he favours the death penalty, and although he supports letting homosexuals serve in the military he does not endorse their lifestyle.

Mr Horne, the pastor in Little Rock, said Mr Clinton could inspire millions to join him, and would serve America best if he were to make his ideas about spiritual renewal as public as possible.

□ Duty upheld: Religious rights activists received another boost from the Supreme Court with a ruling that upholds the right by the Boy Scouts of America to ban a boy, 11, who had refused to pledge his "duty to God and my country". The court ruled that the Scouts were a private organisation, and therefore not subject to federal anti-bias laws, which outlaw discrimination on racial or religious grounds.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zappa the iconoclast dead at 52

New York: Frank Zappa, the inventive and eccentric rock musician who made an industry out of offending most of the people all of the time, has died in Los Angeles at the age of 52. He never apologised to anybody (Ben Macintyre writes).

Zappa, who finally succumbed to the prostate cancer he had fought against for several years, died on Saturday evening with his family at his bedside: his wife Gail, and his four children, Moon Unit, Dweezil, Ahmet and Diva, whose names alone are a fitting testament to his whimsical sense of humour.

Starting in the early 1960s with his band "Mothers of Invention", (producing what he called "sonic mutilations"), Zappa baffled and outraged the mainstream American music industry with his scathing lyrics and cacophonous compositions. He lampooned, in turn, such untouchables as The Beatles, homosexuals, and Jesse Jackson, along with almost all politicians.

After the Czech revolution, President Havel sought to make Zappa his special ambassador for culture, but the plan was vetoed by the State Department. President Havel yesterday hailed him as "a friend of our newly-born democracy."

Body & Mind, page 17
Obituary, page 21
Zappa remembered, page 33

Abuser jailed

Boston: James Porter, who left the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1974 and is now married with four children, was jailed for between 18 and 20 years in Bristol County, Massachusetts, after pleading guilty to 41 charges of molesting 28 children between 1960 and 1968. (Reuters)

HIV sentence

Melbourne: A man who donated blood when he knew he had the HIV virus which can lead to AIDS, was sentenced to 16 months in jail by a court here, after admitting making a false statement to a blood bank. (Reuters)

Israel praises Syrian move to speed peace process

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI yesterday warmly welcomed Syria's offer to help trace seven Israeli servicemen missing in action and suggested that the humanitarian gesture could help thaw frosty relations between the two suspicious neighbours.

The improving Syrian relationship contrasted sharply with renewed violence in the West Bank town of Hebron, where two settlers were shot dead. Three children were injured in the incident in Kiryat Arba, a settlement on the edge of the town.

In what appeared to be the first real breakthrough achieved by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, during his current shuttle mission, Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and relatives of the missing men sent rare compliments to President Assad of Syria.

"The fact that America took the initiative to deal with the issue of the missing, in accordance with our request, and the fact that Syria agreed is an important step forward," the Israeli leader said. "I see this as a big window of hope for the families."

Mr Christopher said after four hours of talks in Damascus on Sunday night that

Judge killed

Algiers: Suspected Muslim extremists yesterday shot dead the presiding judge of the court in the west Algerian city of Oran, legal officials said. Lakhdar Bouaz, 49, was hit in the market district near his home before the three unidentified attackers fled. He was the sixth magistrate to be killed since May. Three others have been injured and several have received death threats. Nine foreign nationals have been killed since September. (AFP)

President Assad had displayed a "strong desire" to move forward in the peace process, and had offered two confidence-building measures. Damascus has agreed to co-operate with an American congressional committee to locate the seven Israeli soldiers, missing in action since the 1980s. Only one of the men, Ron Arad, an air force navigator, is thought to be still alive and in captivity.

In addition, the Syrian authorities agreed to relax emigration restrictions imposed on the country's tiny Jewish population. About three quar-

ters of the 1,200 Jews living in Syria are expected to leave by the end of the year.

"I regard this as an independent humanitarian gesture with considerable importance, especially for the people of Israel. But it will have importance beyond that," Mr Christopher said.

It is still not clear, however, if Syria's gestures really signalled a change of heart in Damascus. President Assad has been one of the most consistent critics of the Israeli-PLO peace deal and broke off talks in September with the Jewish state over the disputed Golan Heights.

Mr Christopher said that it would only become clear whether he had succeeded in coaxing Syria back to the negotiations after he had spoken to Israeli leaders and returned for follow-up talks with the Syrians. "We are only halfway through our discussion with the Syrians," he said.

Mr Christopher did not seem to have any optimistic message on a breakthrough for the Israeli-Palestinian talks following a separate meeting yesterday in Amman with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman. Israeli and PLO negotiators, meeting for the second straight day in Cairo, did not seem any closer to resolving their differences with less than a week to go before their agreed deadline.

The atmosphere at the negotiating table has been soured by continuous violence in the occupied territories. Israeli police in the West Bank town of Ramallah yesterday shot dead a Palestinian suspected of taking part in last week's killing of two Israelis in the nearby town of el-Bireh.

In Sudan, the Khartoum-based Conference of the Arab and Islamic People, headed by Hassan Turabi, called on Muslims to support the militant Hamas movement and reject the PLO-Israeli peace accord. The conference, to which Muslim radicals were invited, also called for tougher United Nations sanctions against Serbia. Delegates included activists from the Palestinian group, Hamas, and from Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front.



Hassan Turabi, the leader of Muslim hardliners in Sudan, addressing the conference in Khartoum

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Child victims of divorce

Who really loves Oliver Malkin? Too many people. And, more to the point, who knows what makes him happy? His father, who has now abducted the unfortunate 12-year-old three times and hidden him from his mother for a total of two years, assures the press that Oliver is happy with him. The boy's sick mother and his stepfather say that he was happy with them.

What Oliver thinks is another matter. He says that he is "fine" and wants to live with his father. But then, he is 1,000 miles from home, with his father beside him.

The rest of us can only look on, helpless to do anything except tend to our own marital (or divorced) relationships with a newly strengthened resolve that never shall we allow a child's emotions to be exploited in a fight between adults. Never mind which Malkin has behaved worst, recently or in the nine years of their married life. It does not matter. They are grown-ups who made free decisions, pooled their genes, created a baby and have to take the consequences. Oliver didn't ask to be born. In common justice, he has priority.

I have not been divorced. But every journalist gets letters from heartbroken fathers whose wives have taken their children to another man's home. We also receive correspondence from brutally deserted mothers who can't see why their children should have anything to do with the swine.

There is real pain in these letters, real fear of loss and dread of a new partner's influence. There is also a frightening vindictiveness. It is not hard to see how such affairs can end in kidnaps.

Both sides demand complex changes in the law and its enforcement, but no legal change could remedy the basic human injustice, which is not theirs at all. The injustice is that you can be four years old, innocent and still get lumbered with two whole adults' deadweight of guilt and broken dreams, with their bitter clutter of pride and spite.

Meeting mothers whose children have been spirited off to the Middle East, or fathers who have lost them to a new husband in America, it is hard not to grieve for them. But I grieve more for the children.

I was finishing a book on family life recently, and was

embarrassed to have it pointed out that the entire section on children and divorce covers no more than 400 words. I rewrote it and it came out even shorter.

The trouble is that the core issue is painfully simple: children come first. We invited them to life's party, and owe them the basic courtesy of a secure home and free access to both parents, without rancour.

There was a period in the 60s and 70s when it was fashionable for children to pretend that they didn't mind divorce and preferred their parents to be "fulfilled". In fact, short of

violence, most children prefer almost anything to the break-up of the family. They do not like having their loyalties divided, hate the artificiality and time-wasting of access arrangements, and secretly they blame themselves. Whatever we do, we make their lives uncomfortable. The plain duty of divorcing adults is to swallow all pride and behave with impeccable good manners and fairness.

It is not only dramatic kidnaps which hurt. Once, I drove a small boy home to his mother's after a weekend with his father. In the car, he said, "I wish I hadn't had so much fun at the swimming pool". Why? "Because my Mum always asks me if I've had a nice time with Dad and Wendy, and if I say 'yes', she cries and says I like him best. But if I say 'no', I feel I'm being bad to him."

Dad, it must be said, had behaved atrociously to this child's mother, but she had no right to pass on the pain. It was hers, part of her life's allocation of misery. When we arrived she came to the door and hugged the boy and said, "Did you have a nice time?" he said "Sort of", and gave me a guilty glance.

Many divorced parents behave with an exemplary restraint. Inevitably, this involves a certain amount of personal humiliation, inconvenience and restriction about where you live. It brings on a rankling sense of unfairness. Tough. There is, morally, no alternative.

Small comfort may be derived from the fact that children are not fools. As they grow older they will know which parent behaved best and work out what it must have cost. In the judgment of Solomon, remember, the winner was the mother who, rather than see her baby torn in half, was prepared to give it up.



LIBBY PURVES

Putting a Red to rest



Warren Beatty (centre) in his "rose-tinted" film *Reds*, which was based on John Reed's life. Reed was the only American to be given the honour of burial in the Kremlin wall

Peter Millar on the turn of fate that means a hero of the Russian Revolution may be finally laid to rest in his native America

It is hard to avoid the impression that the Edinburgh grave-robbers Burke and Marc would have had a field day in modern Moscow. With plans for the burial of Lenin proceeding apace, Boris Yeltsin's men are organising a wholesale replanting of the bodies and urns lining the Kremlin wall.

In the circumstances, it is scarcely surprising that a retired American diplomat called John Reed has lodged a petition for the return, for reburial in his native Oregon, of the remains of his famous uncle and namesake, whose book *Ten Days that Shook the World* was the first and best eyewitness account of the 1917 Russian Revolution. It is hard to overestimate the cathartic effect of great events on those who pass through them, even as observers. Journalists and television reporters from Biafra to Bosnia have too often become partisans of the causes they were sent to report. Those who lived through the blitzkrieg of events leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall were often swept along by the passion of the moment.

Reed's account of the events of October/November 1917 inspired a whole breed of socialist sympathisers: from the young Malcolm Muggeridge, who only began to have doubts when he later saw for himself the horrors of Stalin's collectivisation, to American film-maker Warren Beatty, whose epic film *Reds*, based on Reed's life, even in the bleak 1980s could view Russian history through bifocal, rose-tinted glasses.

Beatty, the "politically aware" actor-director, saw something of himself in Reed, the writer turned political agitator who set up, with Lenin's help, the organisation which became the Communist Party of the USA, later to become the principal target of the McCarthy purges in the 1950s.

Reed was born in Portland, Oregon, and educated at Harvard before winning fame and relative fortune as America's highest-paid journalist, reporting from the First World War and the Mexican war of 1916-17. But it was the events in Petrograd in the fateful autumn of 1917 that really inspired him with a vision of a new blueprint for humanity. *Ten Days that Shook the World*, a detailed, gripping read, was simultaneously a remarkable piece of journalism, one of the first successful examples of "instant publishing" and an effective piece of pro-Bolshevik propaganda. It was described by Reed as "a slice of intensified history — history as I saw it, though he was first to admit: 'My sympathies were not neutral.' His claim that Russian workers supported Bolshevism 'almost unanimously' is dubious at best. Lenin wrote in a brief introduction: 'Unreservedly do I recommend it to the workers of the world.'

Reed's trick was to weave his own enthusiasms and opinions into a keenly-observed colourful narration



John Reed, who idolised Lenin

of people and places. Reed idolised Lenin, yet at the same time painted one of the most accurate and unflattering physical portraits of him: "A short stocky figure with a big head set down on his shoulders, bald and bulging, dressed in shabby clothes, his trousers much too long for him... colourless, humourless, uncompromising and detached." But almost within the same breath he goes on to imbue this conical, transpire character with "the 'greatest intellectual audacity'. Reed praised with faint damnation: Lenin was 'unimpressive, to be the idol of a

mob, loved and revered as perhaps few leaders in history have been."

Reed was not rotten, just wrong. He did not see how ill-conceived the great experiment was, nor how badly it would go wrong, let alone the problems of sorting out the mess afterwards. For the Yeltsin administration, the Kremlin wall burying ground is a seemingly minor but symbolically important part of the problem. Lenin's tomb itself — once the slowly disintegrating remains have been removed and reburied in the family plot in St Petersburg — will be preserved as an architectural monument, much as he ordered should be done with orthodox churches. No doubt there will be those old Communists who will continue to see it as a holy place for their defeated secular religion. But to keep the line of graves with statues and the urns of ashes with commemorative plaques would be to perpetuate an excessive place of honour in a building that stands for a millennium of Russian history. Apart from Reed, and such uncontroversial heroes as first cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the plot contains as great a collection of villains as seen at Nuremberg in 1945: Stalin, his evil henchman Beria, the cynical Dzerzhinsky, founder of the KGB, as well as such lesser later tyrants as Brezhnev and Andropov. In his own introduction, Reed

wrote a crisp two-line putdown of the Mensheviks and their allies, who "believed that Russia was not economically ripe for a social revolution — that only a political revolution was possible. According to their interpretation, the Russian masses were not educated enough to take over the power; and attempt to do so would inevitably bring on a reaction, by means of which some ruthless opportunist might restore the old regime." Enter, stage left, Josef Stalin, a tsar by any other name. And smelling a good deal less sweet.

The Russian government will almost certainly accede to the Reed family's request for the return of his remains. But not all those who over the years became sympathisers with one of the most oppressive forms of human government would be so well received back home. I doubt, for example, whether there would be much of a petition for the return from Kuntsevo military cemetery of the body of Kim Philby, buried with full honours and foam-rubber flower wreaths contributed by his KGB "colleagues at work".

The truth behind the romance of revolution was brought out in another book based on events in Russia, one that appeared years later, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*: there is a depressing tendency for the pigs to come out on top.

● Peter Millar's book on the fall of the Berlin Wall, *Tomorrow Belongs To Me*, is published by Bloomsbury

Sold to the Japanese

Filipino wives face a grim life in rural Japan, says Joanna Pitman

Three months ago Hiroshi Nishikawa, a 32-year-old Japanese construction worker from the mountains of Shikoku Island, 400 miles south of Tokyo, paid ¥2 million (£12,400), equal to ten months' pay, for a wife.

With five other bachelors, he joined a Baby Blue Bridal Tour and set off on a last-ditch marital mission to the Philippines. For all of them it was their first venture abroad and their first direct encounter with foreigners: it was also their last chance to save the isolated mountain village where they live from becoming a wilderness.

Every eligible Japanese woman had been lured away to live in the cities: even those who stayed behind were snatched up years ago by the most handsome young men. Hiroshi and his friends had been left stranded and Baby Blue Brides was their only chance.

It took Hiroshi just one hour at a party in a Manila hotel to come to an agreement, through an interpreter, with Thelma Argal, a manicurist aged 25. Within a week he had married her, honeymooned near Manila and, giving her no chance (and no access to the

interpreter) to change her mind, whisked her back to his home in Iyayama village.

All six men returned triumphant, proudly bearing their bridal booty like Vikings after a raid. Each of them, following the Japanese rite of travel which squeezes six European cities into four days, had managed to cram the week with proposal, engagement, nuptials, honeymoon and return to the village. None of the newly married couples could talk to each other — the women spoke only English and Tagalog, the men only Japanese.

Thousands of Filipinas — and most recently Russian women too, featured fetchingly in special Blondie Bridal Tour brochures — have agreed to come to Japanese farming communities as brides in return for a £500-2,000 payment to their families, putting Fidel Ramos, president of the Philippines, and Boris Yeltsin one step ahead of Bill Clinton in the continuing battle to penetrate Japan's agricultural markets with foreign imports.

The bridal blitz has saved Hiroshi from a future as a country bachelor, one of 120 in a village that has not seen a Japanese wedding for more



Young brides are "bought" for £12,000 by lonely farmers

than six years. As the eldest son, there was never any question of him skipping off to the city to become a disc jockey or even just a blue-suited salaryman. His life was virtually mapped out for him when he was born, as the future manager of the family farm holding and supporter of his ageing parents.

But the Baby Blue Bridal

Samoa Rando (Summer Land), the vivacious Thelma was putting a brave face on the events of the last three months. "When I first met Hiroshi I hardly knew where Japan was, let alone anything about the lifestyle I would lead in the mountains. I thought he looked rather handsome though: a bit like a gangster," she yelled over the juke box music, playfully digging her husband in the ribs.

Hiroshi, no joker by nature, was clearly still wrestling with the idea that his wife would never become the usual smiling, shy and retiring example of Japanese womanhood who generally remains silent in public unless prompted to produce, on cue, a high pitched tittering laugh concealed behind a modestly raised hand.

Thelma has been a good student however; she has quickly learnt to do a passable impersonation of Japanese wifehood in the presence of her mother-in-law. "I have to pretend to be a traditional Japanese wife... lots of bowing and all that. It's hard work and I'm just very glad we don't have to live in the same house."

The tyranny of Japan's mothers-in-law is legendary, particularly in rural areas where the continuing tradition of multi-generation households allows them to impose their will long after their urban cousins have been dispatched to old people's homes.

This was nothing compared to some of the culinary traumas Thelma had to deal with. Her first taste of Japan was an unmitigated disaster. "The food is absolutely disgusting — have you tried *natto*?" she

shrieked, rolling her eyes in horror at the thought of Japan's most pungent culinary invention and the source of visiting tourists' (*natto* is an evil-smelling, potent made from fermented soya beans).

Food and crabby relatives aside, Thelma and Hiroshi have overcome tremendous odds and are managing remarkably well now, just three months into their self-styled "ordeal". "I always dreamt of living somewhere else. I've been lucky because my husband is kind to me, but I wouldn't advise anyone else to take the risk. I've been lonely at times, but others have had a much worse time than me and have divorced and gone home," she said.

Some warring farming communities have organised domestic marriage counselling campaigns for their farming bachelors, like the Lettuce Club in Minami Maki village, 150 miles north of Tokyo. The club invites city-dwelling single women (Lettuce Ladies) to meet farmers and, apparently, to plant lettuce together. One farmer suggested that romantic melodies be relayed to the fields to set the tone.

Other villages take their young men to Tokyo for group interviews with potential marriage partners. Some arrange tractor processions through the streets of Tokyo, their most handsome men on show at the wheel. But few farmers return successfully from these wife-seeking expeditions and the Baby Blue Bridal Tour is considering expanding its catchment area to China, Vietnam and Indonesia.

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Why Zappa died so young

The rock star's death from prostate cancer should make others more alert to the disease's dangers

TWO years ago, Moon Zappa, daughter of Frank Zappa, announced to the audience waiting for him that the show was off as her father had carcinoma of the prostate. Zappa died on Saturday, aged 52, an example of how lethal this cancer can be if treatment is postponed, often unavoidably, until symptoms draw the attention of the patient and their doctors to the tumour.

Cancer of the prostate is hormone dependent, that is to say that if the level of the male hormones is reduced by surgical or medical castration — such as hormone treatment — the malignant tissue will shrink, and the patient will be trouble-free for a length of time.

Zappa was unfortunate that his tumour was fast-growing and soon slipped out of hormonal control. In another case involving a world-famous celebrity, Lord Olivier lived for about 20 years after he initially developed a cancer and had treatment at a London teaching hospital.

When Zappa first developed symptoms he was, certainly in medical terms, young. Roger Kirby, a consultant surgeon at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who has a particular interest in prostate disease, said that prostate cancer in younger patients is attracting

special interest at the moment as there seemed to be in many, but not all cases, a strong genetic link.

If a first-degree relative, whether brother or father, had the disease, a patient is more than twice as likely to develop it than is a man with no familial links; if a patient has two first-degree relatives who have been affected, the risk is quadrupled. The Americans are now carrying out a trial with 7,000 high risk patients to see if routine prophylactic treatment with Proscar, a drug which shrinks the prostate, could do for men's prostates what Tamoxifen can do to save women from breast cancer.

Benign enlargement of the prostate is an almost inevitable consequence of aging: it is as much part of an older man's life as is grey hair or balding. But there is a difference. A few grey hairs do not affect the quality of life, but an enlarged prostate is both damaging to kidney function and can impair enjoyment of life and restrict employment. As Mr Kirby said, "Patients and their

doctors need to be aware of prostate-related disease, not only for the early detection of cancer but for the better treatment of benign enlargement. "Forty-three per cent of men over 60 have symptoms of prostatic enlargement, of whom half are so badly affected that their quality of life is impaired." These men, he said, may have to get up several times a night and are unable to sit through a single act at the theatre, and have to excuse themselves from meetings, or stop every two hours on the motorway.

The same symptoms are a warning of prostatic enlargement, whether benign or malignant. In Britain every year, 9,000 men die



DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

from cancer of the prostate. In America, the figure is 32,000. But hope has now been given to mankind by the discovery of a blood marker which helps to differentiate malignant enlargement of the prostate from benign hypertrophy. This tests the prostatic specific antigen (PSA), which usually rises in age as the prostate enlarges but rises particularly quickly if the enlargement is from malignant tissue.

If the PSA reading is under four, only a tiny proportion of the patients will be found to have a malignancy; between four and ten, a patient needs to have a specialist opinion, for the specialist is more expert in judging a prostate from rectal examination. If there is marked

increase in the PSA after a year, the latest evidence suggests that a 20 per cent increase during this time carries a 17 per cent chance of cancer, and a biopsy of the gland can be organised. If the PSA is over ten, the chance of malignancy is one in two, and biopsy of the gland may almost certainly be recommended.

Some surgeons are now suggesting that older patients should initially be treated with Proscar and if the PSA falls by 50 per cent, the tumour is probably benign; if the level remains static, further immediate investigations are called for.

Cancer of the prostate is, in its earlier stages, a curable disease when treated by radical prostatectomy. The problem has been that, as the cases of Lord Olivier and Zappa illustrate, the natural outcome is variable and surgeons are reluctant to venture into radical treatments if the chance of survival without them might well be good. Older doctors, too, remember when radical prostatectomies were associated with a 25 per cent death rate for the unlucky, and weeks

lingering in hospital for the more fortunate. Times have changed: in the last 56 radical prostatectomies performed by Mr Kirby at Barts, none died. Modern surgery is nerve and blood vessel sparing, so that in 50 per cent of cases the patient's potency is preserved, and only 2 per cent later have incontinence.

In America, the radical prostatectomy rate among patients covered by its largest insurance scheme has risen from 6,852 in 1986 to 39,157 in 1992, the period in which PSA has been available. In Britain, a similar trend will certainly be seen if improved PSA type tests from Abbott Laboratories and Hybritech come satisfactorily through their trials.

"Doctors when asked to carry out a medical must think beyond the heart and lungs, to the areas below the umbilicus which they might prefer to ignore," Mr Kirby said. "They must ask about urinary stream as well as chest pain and be prepared to use their surgical gloves for a rectal examination, as well as a stethoscope and an ECG machine. The PSA needs to be measured as well as the serum cholesterol." If doctors and patients are to take full advantage of these advances such as PSA, they must become more prostate conscious.

Doctors with a nose for sniffing out diseases

Human smells of freshly-baked bread and rotten apples can give good clues to medical conditions — others can be embarrassing to those who exude them

THERE was a time when a doctor would sniff his way to a precise diagnosis. Surgeons who attended British soldiers fighting for the empire during the 19th century suspected, if the patient exuded the smell of a butcher's shop, yellow fever. If the arm pits of someone with a rash and fever exuded the aroma of freshly baked bread, nurses would confidently diagnose a case of typhoid fever. When diphtheria was endemic, a discriminating physician could pick out a case from a queue of sickly children because of the characteristic sweetish odour.

In the field hospitals of the First World War, surgeons were alerted to the pervasive stench of rotten apples, indicating gas gangrene. If a wound gave off the sweet whiff of grapes, it had been infected with the bacterium *Pseudomonas*. These exotic diseases are rarely seen nowadays and the physicians' olfactory skills are limited to more mundane

described a typical case. "For a couple of months, a two-year-old child had been afflicted by a body odour so unpleasant that the teacher at her nursery school banned her from the classroom — even the girl's mother could not stand to be near her," he writes.

"A thorough examination of the nose disclosed a piece of bathroom sponge with the same foul odour as that coming from the child. Within an hour of its removal, the smell had disappeared."

A further hidden source of foetids only recently identified is a chronic infection of the stomach by the organism *helicobacter pylori*, which has also been incriminated as a cause

of gastritis and peptic ulcers. This can now be confirmed by testing the saliva for antibodies to the organism, which can be eradicated by four weeks' worth of antibiotics. Those plagued with excessive flatulence may also have their lives made a misery by the disagreeable odours they produce. Regrettably, many of those with bad "wind problems" consider their ailment too trivial or embarrassing to seek medical help. The problem may fade if flatus-inducing foods such as baked beans are avoided and charcoal tablets that absorb intestinal gas are chewed. If these measures have no effect, it is possible the problem is due to a missing gut enzyme leading to malabsorption of sugars or to the presence of large numbers of methane-producing bacteria in the colon.

There are also a group of rare congenital syndromes known collectively by the offensive odours they cause: ear's urine syndrome, sweaty feet syndrome and rancid butter syndrome. Most of these are lethal in childhood but fish odour syndrome is an excep-

tion. Eleven cases have recently been described in the *British Medical Journal*. The breath and sweat smell strongly of rotting fish producing "strong feelings of shame, social isolation, paranoia and depression with educational and career disadvantages and a failure to maintain relationships with the opposite sex".

The underlying problem is an inability to metabolise and so render odourless an amine, trimethylamine, derived from the diet, which is present in large amounts in eggs, liver, offal and saltwater fish. "The patients had been badly served when trying to seek medical help. Some were told by psychiatrists that they were



Patients' odours have often given indications of disease

The smell of small babies is described as being similar to vanilla or hot crumpets

disorders. The "secret" drinker is readily sniffed out by the strong whiff of peppermint on his breath which still cannot disguise the distinctive smell of alcohol secreted through the sweat glands on the skin.

A whiff of ammonia from an old man suggests an enlarged prostate. Similarly, a comatose young man taken to casualty whose breath smells strongly of acetone almost certainly has diabetes.

More important in contemporary medical practice are those unfortunate people who exude unpleasant odours, with all their attendant social and psychological problems.

Halitosis — caused by rotten teeth and gums and readily preventable by strict dental hygiene and regular visits to the dentist — is the commonest. But if the teeth are healthy, there may be other causes. A chronic nasal infection often associated with obstructing polyps may be responsible and is treatable by surgical removal and a course of antibiotics.

Foreign objects inserted by children in their nostrils can give rise to the vilest of odours, which can take a surprisingly long time to diagnose.

Dr Michael Farnham, a Miami paediatrician, has

One in ten British adults suffers panic attacks. Ian Robertson on the therapy

Don't panic. Face up to the spiral of fear

MATTHEW woke up in the middle of the night, his body soaked in sweat and his heart thudding inside a chest so tight that every breath hurt. There was a tingling in his fingers and his head was swimming.

The blackness of the room pressed in on him like a shroud and it was all he could do to prevent himself crying out as he staggered into the hallway, gasping for breath. All he could think of was that he was having a heart attack and as that thought caught hold in his mind, the sweat broke out again and his heart started beating even faster.

Sitting on the top of the stairs, Matthew felt the attack begin to pass. He went back to bed but did not go back to sleep for a while, apprehensive in case he had another attack. Eventually he dropped off to sleep again, and the next morning was able to go out as normal to his job as an insurance broker.

That night he was so tired that he went to bed early, but again in the small hours, he was woken by the pounding heart and the terror. Matthew was convinced that he was having a heart attack and called out his GP, who promptly sent him to hospital.

Matthew was sent home the next day with a clean bill of health for his heart, but with a diagnosis of panic attacks, which to him was in many ways more frightening because it was so intangible.

That night and every night from then on, Matthew would wake up in terror with the same symptoms, but a new fear — he was losing control. Within a few days, Matthew could not go to sleep because he feared the panic attacks, and as he became more exhausted, he started to have them during the day.

Soon he could not go to work, and he began to drink heavily in order to get some sleep. He was convinced he was losing his mind and a panic attack could be triggered by that thought alone.

Panic could also be triggered if he noticed his breathing becoming deeper or his heart beating faster. Even a feeling of slight dizziness could provoke a full-blown, terrifying attack.

Matthew stopped meeting his friends, and he split up with his girlfriend because he could not cope with going out any more. He began to have panic attacks in crowded places, on buses, even in the street. After several weeks of this, he began to feel depressed and hopeless.

One in ten adults in Britain has suffered at least one panic attack similar to Matthew's. One in 20 adults suffers from them sufficiently regularly to warrant a psychiatric diagnosis of "panic disorder", and these millions seek help more often than those suffering any other psychological or psychiatric disorder. Typically, it hits young adults under 30, more often women than men.

The good news is that panic disorder can be treated by the latest therapeutic techniques, as shown by recent research by clinical psychologists Dr David Clark and Dr Paul Salkovskis and colleagues at Oxford University.

In a study shortly to appear in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, they report that "cognitive therapy" was more effective than the best drug treatment, both in the long and short term. At the end of



The Scream by Edvard Munch (1893): Panic attack sufferers often wake in the night and think they are going mad

12 sessions of cognitive therapy, 90 per cent of sufferers were free of panic attacks, and between 70 and 75 per cent remained so one year later.

But what exactly is this cognitive therapy and why does it work? Cognitive therapy is based on the idea that the way we interpret things determines how we react emotionally to them. In the case of panic attacks, one of the reasons they escalate is that people like Matthew misinterpret bodily sensations such as palpitations as signs that there is something wrong with them.

This belief makes them more anxious, which in turn makes their hearts beat faster and their breathing patterns change. And so the vicious spiral continues: fear of the bodily symptoms makes the symptoms themselves worse, which in turn raises the anxiety further and so on.

Soon, as in Matthew's case, the person can become phobic about his or her own bodily sensations, so that whenever some change in heart rate or breathing is noticed, the spiral of fear and bodily response is set in motion.

This process can in turn become linked to external situations such as being in a supermarket, entering a crowded room and travelling

on a bus, and these situations in turn can then trigger new panic attacks.

Breathing can be a key element of panic attacks. Some people with panic disorder "hyperventilate" — ie, over-breathe — during the attack. One effect of the overbreathing if it goes on long enough is to change the chemistry of the blood affecting carbon dioxide levels.

These chemical changes themselves produce many of the symptoms of panic, including palpitations, dizziness and tingling in the extremities. In other words, there is another vicious cycle going on, whereby overbreathing produces physical symptoms which themselves fuel the panic attack further.

One of the main methods of cognitive therapy for panic disorder is to teach the person to reinterpret the feared bodily changes as relatively harmless physiological consequences of hyperventilation. This often involves actually getting them to do what they fear most — bringing on the symptoms under supervision.

By bringing on the symptoms deliberately, they learn that they are controllable. Furthermore, they learn that the dire consequences — death, madness, loss of control — simply do not happen. Hence, gradually the terrifying beliefs that they will die or

go mad are challenged by their own experience, and more accurate and less alarming thoughts gradually replace them.

There is more to cognitive therapy for panic disorder than this, but the important point is that this hugely disabling condition is now treat-

able by a scientifically well-established treatment which involves none of the side-effects and problems of psychotropic drugs.

● The author is senior scientist at the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit.

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Lynne Truss



■ Please take care before reading on, and don't even think of laying the table

In my flat, I have a small flight of steps, and it worries me. Because one day, in a blur of windmilling arms and high-kicking legs, I am convinced it will shape my end. In itself, this staircase looks innocent of hazard: there are no loose stair rods, and if ever I discover ball bearings, bars of soap, or sheets of slippery tin-foil on the top step, I clear them carefully before starting my descent. No, the trouble is, these stairs lead to the kitchen — and anyone who lives with cats will instantly grasp the nature of my fears. For whenever a cat hears someone heading, with a loaded tray, in that direction, he looks up, thinks quickly (but not deeply) — *tin! cat bowl! tea-time!* — and makes a blind dash, in the manner of a furry bowling ball hurled with gusto down an alley. There is a heavy expectant pause as he thunders targetwards, and then *crash* — the pleasant hollow sound of stricken skittles is reluctantly simulated by the windmilling lady with the tray.

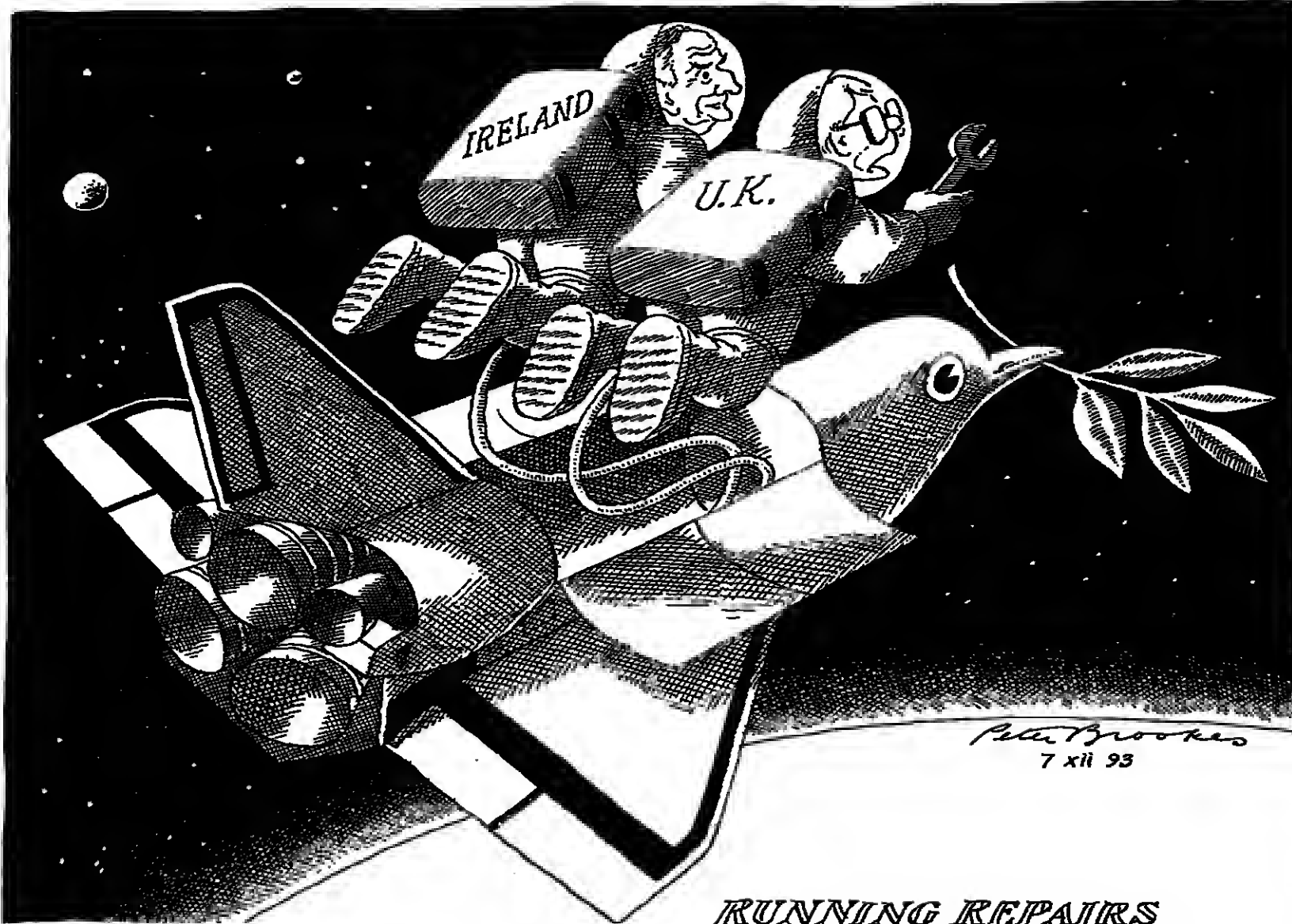
My only consolation, as I await this disaster, is to muse (albeit tautologically) that "most domestic accidents occur in the home". And how right I am. Last week's DTI report about domestic mishaps evidently included the extraordinary statistic that 29 people last year were injured by dressing gowns, while six named place-mats as their personal Waterloo. Yes, place-mats. Adjust these numbers upwards to account for people too proud to admit to misadventure by warm fluffy towelling or slim cork rectangles and we can see the extent of the danger in our homes. But how was it that 101 people fell victim to their own trousers? How was it that a lone peculiar person was afflicted by a tea-cosy? Crime novelists must be in ecstasy at the news. Suddenly it is permissible for a suspicious detective to peer quizzically at a lifeless body, suck his teeth, and say, "Of course, this may be just a straightforward tea-cosy casualty, but I rarely trust the most obvious explanation".

Ah, yes, trousers, dressing-gowns, bread-bins, place-mats, tea-cosies, slippers — all those innocent Christmas gifts now carry the unfortunate connotation of the loaded gun. Personally, I find myself wondering (with a feverish urgency) what sort of place-mat I mean, the rough raffia sort could give me a nasty scratch, I suppose; and the smooth laminated hunting-scent sort might possibly raise your blood pressure if you were an animal-rights activist. Neither, on the face of it, could land you in hospital.

No, only one explanation will satisfy all the scrappy data at my disposal: that instead of unrepentant implausible domestic accidents taking place last year entailing tea-cosies and slippers, there was just one enormous out-of-hand Christmas party involving 101 drunken people spilling onto a main road wearing their trousers on their heads, and six attempting to skate across a frozen swimming pool with place-mats strapped to their feet. It's the only solution that makes sense. Let's break into the dressing-gown warehouse, yells some one wearing a knitted tea-cosy as a balaclava. 29 people following behind him, stumbling. But alas, once inside, blinded by the tea-cosy, he falls against a lever, and from a great height a large bundle of dressing-gowns promptly plummets towards their unwitting bodies. Meanwhile, back at the party, the innocuous game "Toss the slipper in the bread-bin" has been proceeding safely until somebody has the bright idea of transferring the action downstairs to the kitchen. At which point a cat wakes, looks up, thinks quickly (but not deeply), and — well, you can guess the rest.

The DTI does not investigate the statistics, just tabulates them, so it's no use asking for the true story. Presumably most people made their statements in a state of shock and blamed the wrong thing. "Why did you fall downstairs, madam?" "The tray!"

A friend was once waiting in an uphill queue at traffic lights when her car was threatened by a van in front, slowly rolling backwards. Having honked her horn in vain, she ran to the driver's door, and discovered a woman piling plates on the dashboard. Evidently, they had slipped off; hence the neglect of the handbrake. "Plates!" she laughed, by way of inadequate explanation. "But they're all right, luckily."



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Why judges know best

Lord Lane says politicians should leave the judiciary to decide sentences for murder, for its wickedness varies widely

The task of the sentencing judge is to punish the offender for what he has done and to try to protect the public from future harm. Whether the conviction has resulted from the verdict of a jury or from a plea of guilty, the judge will have heard in detail the facts of the offence and the history of the offender, together with any mitigation, all in open court. He is then in as good a position as anyone can be to decide what the proper sentence should be.

But in murder cases, this is all to no avail. Whatever the circumstances of the offence or the offender, whatever the mitigating factors, the judge has no option but to order him or her to suffer imprisonment for life, however inappropriate such sentence may be.

The definition of murder means, broadly speaking, that anyone who is proved to have unlawfully caused the death of another with the intention that the other should suffer serious injury (though not necessarily death) is guilty of murder. That definition embraces a wide range of conduct and, perhaps more important, a wide range of intentions. Whether the crime is murder or whether it is attempted murder or manslaughter (for both of which the life sentence is the maximum but not the mandatory penalty) may depend largely on chance or the availability of medical help. It may depend upon the fine distinction between an intent to do serious harm and an intent to inflict a lesser degree of injury.

The offender may be a caring husband whose only wish has been to put an end to the agony his dying wife is suffering. It may be a wife, no longer able to tolerate the behaviour of a bullying husband, who after years of suffering kills him in circumstances which fall outside the strict (some say too strict) rules of provocation.

At the other end of the scale, it may be an armed robber trying to shoot his way out of trouble, or a terrorist blowing up an aircraft in flight and killing hundreds in the process. The judge must sentence all alike to imprisonment for life. The robber and the terrorist are clearly proper subjects of a life sentence — and will remain so. The others equally clearly are not.

Who decides how long each of these offenders must spend in prison? Not the trial judge, though his views will be sought (and often disregarded). Not anyone who has heard the proceedings

at the trial. That decision is taken behind closed doors by a minister at the Home Office. This has none of the safeguards of a judicial decision: there is no public hearing and no system of appeal.

So how did this stage of affairs come about? Hanging as punishment for murder was abolished in 1963. That was done only after highly charged debates about the morality and expediency of the death penalty. It is understandable that in such an atmosphere too little attention was paid to the punishment that was to replace the death penalty. In the upshot, the legislators simply replaced one fixed penalty, death, with another, life imprisonment. The Lord Chief Justice at the time, Lord Parker, was strongly in favour of the judges being free to decide the length of imprisonment. "I dislike a fixed sentence, and now it is proposed to abolish the fixed sentence of the death penalty, I do not wish to see another fixed penalty in its place," he said. "In a fixed sentence there is no room for any mitigation."

Subsequent experience has shown, at least to those concerned with trying to administer the "life" system, how unwise it was to depart from the fundamental principle that sentencing is a judicial function and not one to be entrusted to politicians, however eminent, or to civil servants, however experienced.

The present system has resulted in our having in our prisons at the moment more than 3,000 lifers — more, we are told, than are to be found in all the other prisons in Western Europe put together. Eighty per cent of the 3,000 are mandatory lifers, that is to say those convicted of murder. That involves a heavy administrative load, and is unsatisfactory to the families of victims, who generally speaking have no idea when the offender is likely to be released or what is the real sentence upon him. It has also given rise to a number of side-effects (incomprehensible to the victim's family), such as conviction for manslaughter rather than for murder, abolishing the judge from the obligation to impose a life sentence in circum-

stances where such a course would be abhorrent.

That is why an independent committee, set up by the Prison Reform Trust under my chairmanship, is advocating that there should be a reassertion of the principle that sentencing is a function of the courts and that life imprisonment should be the maximum but not the mandatory penalty for murder. If our recommendations are accepted, the sentence of life imprisonment will be reserved for those murderers whose crime really is so heinous that no lesser penalty would be adequate.

Inevitably it is the horrifying murders which occupy the headlines, but research shows that they are only a small proportion of the total. The great majority of unlawful killings are the result of domestic strife, of sudden bouts of temper, of drunken brawls, and so on, where a fixed term of imprisonment would be appropriate and adequate by way of punishment and deterrence.

Some people argue that to change the mandatory nature of the life sentence would be a display of weakness — "going soft on the killer". It seems to the committee that the opposite is the case. At the moment, the life sentence means not what it says, but simply that the length of time the offender spends in prison will be decided not by the judge but by a politician.

If our recommendations are accepted, the life sentence will start to have a serious meaning. It will indicate that the particular offence is so appalling or the offender is so dangerous that it is impossible to fix the appropriate term of years. It will be a sentence to be feared, and no longer the empty phrase it is at present.

There are, of course, a number of grave offences for which the offender may, at the discretion of the judge, be sentenced to life imprisonment. These, as I say, include manslaughter and attempted murder. It is not generally appreciated that in order to bring home a charge of attempted murder, the prosecution must prove an actual intent to kill. Unlike in the case of murder,

proof of an intent to do serious harm is not enough. Thus, attempted murder may often be, in terms of wickedness, a much more serious crime than murder. Yet the judge has wide discretion as to the penalty he imposes for the attempt.

So what is the reason for the persistent refusal by the Home Office to consider any alteration of the system, despite the strong recommendations of the House of Lords select committee on murder and life imprisonment (the Nathan committee) and others. The official line has been expressed by the present Home Secretary, Michael Howard, as follows:

The nature of the mandatory sentence is different. The element of risk is not the decisive factor in the imposition of a life sentence: in such a case the offender has committed a crime of such gravity that he is required to forfeit his liberty to the state for the rest of his life. The presumption is that the offender should remain in the custody until 1, or the Home Secretary of the day, concludes not only that the imprisonment served is sufficient to serve the interests of retribution and deterrence and that it is safe for the prisoner to be released, but also that the public interest would be better served by the prisoner's release than by his continued detention. . . account has to be taken not just of punishment and risk, but of how society as a whole would view the prisoner's release at this juncture.

This statement raises a number of issues. The assumption that every murder is equally heinous and that every murderer must automatically forfeit liberty for the rest of his or her life is absurd. Murderers range from the almost unbelievably wicked to those deserving of little but sympathy, with every degree of criminal responsibility between the two.

The idea that the length of a prison sentence should be determined other than by a court of law is alarming. To allow the task to be carried out by a politician is to usurp the function properly allocated by the public to the judges.

Furthermore, the proposition that the length of a prison sentence should be determined by what the Home Secretary regards as "how society as a whole would view the prisoner's release" is startling, to say the least, particularly when it is the Home Secretary himself who suggests that he is to be the repository and arbiter of public opinion.

Lord Lane was Lord Chief Justice 1980-92, and chaired the Prison Reform Trust's committee of enquiry.

Bernard Levin will appear on Thursday.

With the lead piping

THE REHABILITATION of Reverend Green, the Cluedo character who was threatened with extinction one year ago, continues apace. He is to be represented by Jimmy Savile in a limited edition of Cluedo which sees Professor Plum become a beetle-browed Lord Healey and the flirtatious Miss Scarlet turn into Jilly Cooper.

The Leeds-based games company Waddington is producing a limited local edition of 2,000 sets, replacing the game's eclectic group of victims and murderers with well known individuals who have Leeds connections. The scenes of many past crimes — the library, the conservatory and the hall — will be replaced by landmark buildings in Leeds made to coincide with the city's centenary year, says a spokesman for Waddington. "The money raised will go to the Lord Mayor's charities."

Lord Healey was unavailable for comment yesterday, but was said to be ticked by the chance to play Professor Plum. He will be joined by the novelist Jack Higgins as dry old Colonel Mustard, Barbara Taylor Bradford as Mrs White, and Elizabeth Peacock.

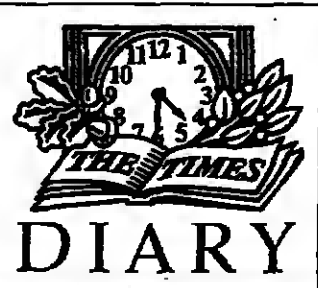
Conservative MP for Batley and Spenn, as Mrs Peacock.

Jilly Cooper relishes the role as Miss Scarlet, according to her agent: "She thought it very amusing that she was asked to play Miss Scarlet, who is quite lively." But Savile confesses that he finds Cluedo somewhat baffling. "Unfortunately, it's beyond my mental capacity," he says. "Now my name, face and reputation are on the line. I hope I don't get found out — but that's Cluedo."

● Peter Bottomley, Conservative MP for Eiltham and husband of Virginia, has done well from the Boundary Commission's redrawing of the parliamentary map. His 1,666 majority last year looks likely to be boosted by the inclusion of "blue" areas in his London seat. But he is not entirely satisfied: "They have put Eiltham parish church — and our war memorial — outside the Eiltham constituency."

Any blue will do

SPOTTED DICK and custard may not be the customary fare for a rugby team before a Varsity match, but today's Cambridge team went back to school for its



pre-match preparation. Training took place over the last few days at Oakham School, a co-educational private school in Leicestershire where Phil Callow, the Cambridge captain, was deputy head boy.

Although the team stayed at a nearby hotel overlooking Rutland Water, it trained and fed at Oakham, to the delight of its headmaster Graham Smallbone, who now faces the problem of which team to support. "I was an Oxford man — Worcester College. I have mixed emotions but I shall be delighted if my recent deputy head boy wins."

Missing pieces

DESPERATE measures are under way at Central Office to cut the party's £19 million overdraft. Having closed down Conservative Newsline — the last issue of which goes to press this week — staff are

trying to raise money by selling cardboard pieces of John and Norman Major.

To date, the 300 limited edition sets of the £2 jigsaw, entitled "The Prime Minister and Mrs Norma Major", have been somewhat slow to sell — even as prizes at local party functions. It might be because the chocolate-box photograph, chosen personally by the prime minister for the jigsaw, was snapped a few years ago by photographer William Thornton — who works for the Labour-supporting Scottish Daily Record.

The party has no plans to extend its jigsaw portfolio, however. When asked if the party ever sold jigsaws of Margaret Thatcher, an outraged assistant at HQ retorted: "Certainly not."

Admirable THE management of Dolphin Square in London has struck a chord with its royal residents. The Princess Royal, and more particularly her navy-minded husband, Commander Tim Laurence, are said to be delighted by the decision to hang portraits of British naval heroes throughout the enormous complex of flats.

The 13 etchings hang in the entrance halls to each of the complex's blocks of flats, all of which are named after the admirals and naval heroes now decorating their

walls. Drake, Raleigh and Nelson are all represented.

However, Tony Crawford, the general manager, denies that he is trying to curry royal favour. "Although we are thrilled that the Princess Royal and Commander Laurence are living here, we have had this idea for at least two years," he says.

● John Major's bedtime reading has taken a racy turn. Under strict embargo, Edwina Currie has given the Prime Minister an early proof of her lively novel, A Parliamentary Affair (cover: a pair of female legs in seamed stockings bearing the House of Commons logo). His enjoyment will be short-lived, however. Currie says her novel's Prime Minister is the "most cynical character of all".

A steaming hot Currie... and off to bed



Never-never

LAST NIGHTS opening at the Vaudeville Theatre of Ken Campbell's lurid one-man show *Jamais Vu*, in which he sticks a considerable number of lavatory plungers on his head, was warmly received.

But its transfer to the West End has not been without cost to the anarchic actor. For the Vaudeville's owner, Michael Codron, is asking Campbell to pay back a debt of more than 20 years' standing for the privilege of performing on his stage.

Codron asked Campbell to write him a play in the early 1970s, and gave him a £50 commission to do so. More than two decades later, he has given up waiting for the play and is demanding the £50 back, threatening to deduct the sum from Campbell's fee. "It comes to quite a lot with interest," warns Codron.

● A desperate rifting of Knightsbridge wardrobes took place this morning as staff from Condé Nast, which publishes *Vogue*, *Taxi* and *Vanity Fair*, worried what to wear to work. Yesterday, expecting a demonstration from animal-rights activists this morning, the company ordered staff to leave fur coats at home. Which left only the Armani, Westwood, Ozbek, Muir...

Divorce without tears?

A marriage policy must come first, says David Walker

Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, is the Government's talisman. Yesterday he was signed up, not so much to ward off evil (if divorce is an evil, it is more necessary to the political class than to the nation at large) as to bring the Cabinet luck.

Luck? When it comes to love, procreation and coupling, and the diversity of morals surrounding them, modern British governments characteristically cross their fingers and whistle.

Are the new proposals any more than an exercise not really in Victorian values but in Victorian street-cleaning, with the state following along behind the horse of social mores with a bucket and spade? The proposals have a solid-looking provenance. The Law Commission — which we are encouraged to take on trust as an expert body not only above suspicion but above ideology — has deliberated long, as has the Lord Chancellor. But they demonstrate that divorce, which is to say marriage, is too important to be left to the lawyers. The proposals are largely innocent of social and behavioural analysis, and of numbers.

"Bitterness" and "conflict" are defined only anecdotally. If it is the case — and there is a body of evidence to this effect — that subsequent child development is "better" (with less crime and breakdown, and less call on the public purse) when fathers remain connected with their offspring, then "friendlier" settlements are to be welcomed.

Will more mediation and fewer solicitors secure them? Will speed really produce greater amity? Here is a set of proposals with unknown but dynamic consequences, put together typically on the basis of minimal social research. Only now are public attitudes towards conciliation to be explored. This is an occasion when a little more sociology would have been useful.

One effect of the proposals would be to deprofessionalise divorce. But will this be at the cost of creating a new quasi-profession of mediators and conciliators? Are they meant to be morally neutral? Are they to have a child-first philosophy? Here we have a dignified, but politically naïve lawyer, Lord Mackay, carrying forward a social and to some extent moral transformation. It is as if the huge array of behaviour surrounding marriage — financial, affective, generational — can be understood only in the forum of a courtroom, and a courtroom moreover dealing only with the detritus of marriage, not its hopes or long substance.

Yet for the Lord Chancellor it is indeed "no fault". Lord Mackay said yesterday, without conscious irony, that the test of a divorce law is whether it strengthens and values the institution of marriage.

To make that statement intelligible, the Government needs to have, or at least aspire to, some sort of policy for marriage. These proposals were put together (it appears) after minimal collective deliberation by ministers in Cabinet. Marriage policy, for yesterday's purposes, seems to have consisted in random runs from a High Anglican fastness by the Environment Secretary, heard in silence by those Cabinet colleagues with some power to affect marriage and its duration, notably the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Social Security Minister.

Government does affect how we value — literally and figuratively — the married state, its beginning and end. Starting with the Child Support Agency and ending with the Chancellor's Budget last week, the Government has raised the cost of marrying, having children and breaking apart.

A Government proposing to legislate on divorce is surely obliged to ask itself if its financial policies provide an incentive to stay married. The fact is that married couples now enjoy only a tiny fiscal advantage.

Without crying for some full-blown family policy, the Government is also obliged at least to inform itself about the likely effects of its policies on the number of mothers working outside the home — bearing in mind the strength of feeling found by British Social Attitudes that women with school-age children should stay at home. It is on such basic structures of employment and income that marriages prosper, and founder.

The Government is obliged especially to reflect on the ways it directly intervenes between married or formerly married couples. The operations of the Child Support Agency are injurious to second marriages and may lead to more rather than less "bitterness" in the sundering of first marriages.

The philosophy and practices of agency run head on into the conciliation ethos. In practical terms, even if the Government were to accept the reforms put forward by the Commons social policy committee, the agency's work poses a legal and administrative challenge to the new mediators proposed in the Lord Chancellor's green paper.

The public itself has mixed views about marriage, as last week's British Social Attitudes report demonstrated. In international comparison, the British are highly sceptical about marriage bringing happiness, yet the popularity of marriage grows apace [witness the number of remarriages].

There is no point in pretending, in the face of such ambiguities, that ministers will find it easy to think about, let alone legislate for marriage. Yet without some stab at a policy about marriage, a new policy about divorce looks like the proverbial carriage minus horse.

The author is the BBC's urban affairs correspondent.

تَكَذِّبُكَ الْأَصْلُ

near Manila and, giving her no chance (and no access to the

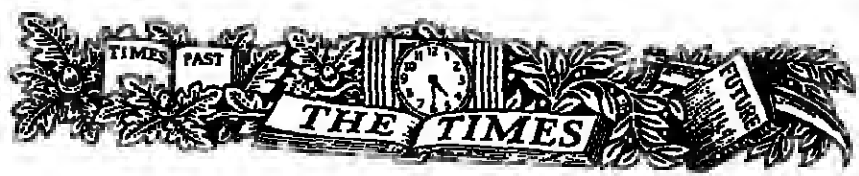
a village that has not seen a Japanese wedding for more

ageing parents.

But the Baby Blue Bridal

subterranean city bar named

— have you tried natto? she — nam and Indonesia:



SMALL IN COUNCIL

The Arts Council needs a new start and fresh vision

What began as a farce about London orchestras now looks like the tragedy of the Arts Council. The orchestras are as good as saved. Five months of musical turmoil have been all for nothing. The Council will abandon its big decision next week for a lame compromise. And this comes only a few weeks after its last face-saving about-turn over the threatened regional theatres.

"Fatuous, so-called policies" — the memorable words of Lord Rix when he resigned from the Council in the summer — have again buckled under public disapproval. The bureaucrats are found again to be out of touch with the organisations they subsidise, even with their own advisory panels. The panel specialists are resigning almost daily, complaining of their decisions being twisted by council officers.

John Maynard Keynes's invention, once the epitome of post-war cultural renewal, has comprehensively lost its way. Council members can claim, with some justification, that in recent years they have been more sinned against than sinning. The Heritage Department now leans heavily on them from above. When it imposes policy, it is able to shield behind the Council. When the results of those policies bring howls of pain from the subsidised arts sector, it hides behind the Council all the more assiduously.

The Arts Council has to live with the ten regional arts boards established after the Wilding Report in 1989 and bringing more blurred responsibilities, more expensive layers of bureaucracy to soak up funds that should have gone straight to artists, more confusion about whose buck stops where.

Successive arts ministers (eight in 13 years) have paid lip service to regional devolution and utterly failed to sort out the messy consequences.

But the main trouble lies inside the Council. Administering a shrinking grant is not easy. Yet the Arts Council customarily gives the impression that it is either devising sophistries to cover earlier misjudgments, or indulging in grandiose dreams that bear no relation to the hard realities of survival felt in every British theatre, concert hall and museum. The £300,000 "national arts strategy", unveiled earlier this year, was a document of such ludicrous blandness that it was dismissed within hours of publication.

If the national lottery works well, the publicly funded arts in Britain could be transformed. The Council must therefore show that it has the vision, the steadiness — and the simple competence — to use substantial new funds wisely. A new chairman is soon to be appointed: his first task must be to prove that there is a job to do. It will not be easy.

Who will accept this challenge? To limit the choice to candidates wealthy enough to take an unpaid position seems absurd. If the Arts Council is to pull itself out of its present hole, reassert its authority as something greater than a rubber-stamp for the Heritage Department, and win back the confidence of performers and public, it cannot be led by a figurehead. The man or woman who is great in bureaucratic war. Indeed, too little leadership now could easily bring about the Council's abolition.

KOREA'S MISSILE CRISIS

Who needs friends, as long as they have plutonium?

North Korea could soon be a nuclear power: it is already proving that nuclear blackmail pays. Last spring, when Pyongyang first blocked inspection of suspect nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency and then threatened to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it was friendless and bankrupt. Today, President Clinton offers this totalitarian, terrorist dictatorship "the hand of possible co-operation" and pleads with it "to come join the rest of us". Who, the world's rogue nuclear aspirants must be asking, needs friends, so long as they have plutonium?

America opened direct negotiations with Pyongyang eight months ago and has offered North Korea ever larger military, economic and diplomatic inducements to be honest about its nuclear facilities. In return, North Korea has suspended its withdrawal from the NPT, but that is all. The inspectors are still barred. Playing skillfully on anxieties about its true intentions in South Korea and Japan, Pyongyang has meanwhile test-fired its Rodong-1 ballistic missile, capable of carrying nuclear payloads. It has massed troops backed by powerful missiles and artillery on the 38th parallel and announced that if the United Nations imposes sanctions, it is "ready for war".

Mr Clinton has issued his own warnings, saying in July that any use of nuclear weapons by North Korea "would mean the end of their country" and stating last month that an attack on South Korea would be "an attack on the United States". But neither the president nor his team is consistent. Last week the Pentagon confirmed that it is considering reinforcing US strength in South Korea. Simultaneously, the most senior general in the US air force said publicly that America would be hard pressed to stop an invasion, that Seoul

would come under savage attack — and that a pre-emptive strike would probably fail to destroy all North Korea's nuclear sites.

The case for a diplomatic solution is unanswerably strong, so long as there is a serious prospect of success — defined as putting a definitive end to North Korea's nuclear cheating. The Kim dynasty which rules North Korea could well be ruthless enough, and desperate enough, to unleash a second Korean War. But every month is time gained for its nuclear scientists, either to perfect a nuclear weapon, to hide the evidence or to bomb-proof secret sites. There is no evidence that North Korea is awed by the somewhat unconvincing diplomatic pressure America has applied, or even motivated by economic self-interest.

Next week the IAEA's director, Hans Blix, reports to the UN Security Council. America has pledged that if, as in honesty he must, he declares North Korea in violation of nuclear safeguards, it will press for UN sanctions. It must proceed, even at the risk of a Chinese veto. If the UN is paralysed, North Korea can still be squeezed. Japan could cut off some \$600 million in remittances from Korean residents there; the allies could intercept North Korea's destabilising arms-for-oil trade with countries such as Iran.

America and its allies must face an unpalatable fact. If North Korea had nuclear missiles able to reach Japan, they would think long and hard even before defending South Korea against the forcible "unification" Kim Il Sung has sworn to effect by 1995. If North Korea is going to blink, it will be now rather than later. Mr Clinton has said that nuclear nonproliferation is his priority. Unless he shows unequivocally that he means business, with all the risks that entails, North Korea could yet become Mr Clinton's Cuban missile crisis.

HIGHER AMBITIONS

No turning back from the university marketplace

In an essay in *The Times* yesterday, John Patten set out the government's agenda for higher education more fully than he has done since becoming Education Secretary last April. He was right to emphasise that universities must specialise much more if they wish to prosper in the expanding higher education marketplace. Equally welcome was his warning that prospective students must expect to pay more for their education.

At present the government's higher education policy is an uncertain mix of free market principles and central control. Mr Patten's prediction that universities will have to "develop the research and teaching strategies best suited to their particular needs" is the clearest recognition by ministers to date that the expanding university system cannot be homogeneous. Although a formal division between research and teaching institutions is unlikely, informal divisions of labour are emerging as entrepreneurial universities play to their strengths.

Diversification should enable the increasing number of students to exercise greater choice. Thus far the government's reforms have encouraged the development of a true higher education marketplace in which higher education accept the responsibilities of an accountable service provider. The stumbling block has been ministers' reluctance to block advance radical solutions to the problem of university finance. True to the principles of the Robbins report, it is still the state that pays students' tuition fees and maintenance grants. This burden on the taxpayer, barely affordable in the 1960s, has become intolerable; though committed to expansion of higher education, the government has had to intervene repeatedly to keep costs

down. Last week, the student maintenance grant was cut by 10 per cent, and universities were warned that they will be compensated fully for the cost of tuition only if they reduce their intake by 3.5 per cent next year. This "stop-go" strategy may be financially necessary, but sends muddled signals to universities and sixth-formers.

Higher education needs more market freedom and less central planning. Research funds and some capital projects will always need an element of central administration; so too will quality control of research and teaching. But there is no reason why student numbers should be dictated by the constraints of the public purse. The Robbins principle is out of date. Most undergraduates (and graduates) already have to juggle debts. In spite of leaks suggesting that some ministers endorse radical reform, the government's stated intention is still to reduce the official grant and gradually to increase the loans available to students. This is a timid Fabian response to a problem that requires bold action.

University teaching should be funded primarily by its beneficiaries. The Australian Higher Education Contribution Scheme has shown how smoothly such a system can be introduced: students are enabled to borrow their tuition and maintenance costs and repay the loan through the tax system, as quickly as their earnings permit. In the long term, such a system would reduce dramatically the burden of higher education to the state and thus the need for central planning of places. The case for such a reform as part of the government's recasting of the welfare state has become unanswerable. It should be a central feature of future thinking.

Voices in concert to save all the London orchestras

From Mr Raymond Gubbay

Sir, The alleged recommendations of the Hoffman committee and the Arts Council's likely response (report, December 6) seem to indicate that two of the three London orchestras involved in the six-month funding battle will lose substantial amounts of their money. This need not be the case.

By my reckoning, the combined salaries and expenses of the director of music at the Arts Council and the director of the South Bank Centre (both of whom appear near the centre of the current fiasco) added together would go almost all the way to restoring the proposed cut in the grant to the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

If one included the salary of the secretary general of the Arts Council and a few other luminaries from Great Peter Street, the grant to the London Philharmonic Orchestra need not be cut at all. The capital's orchestras would thus be saved and the Arts Council would emerge leaner if not fitter. Offenbach himself might recognise material here for a good comic opera plot emerging from this modern-day *Tales of Hoffmann*.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND GUBBAY,
Raymond Gubbay Ltd,
175A High Street,
Barnet, Hertfordshire,
December 6.

From the Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Society and others

Sir, As the oldest concert-giving society in this country, we have seen orchestras come and go; but we view with serious concern the present predicament of those London orchestras uncertain of their fate, which apparently still lies in the hands of the Arts Council.

We would like to send our sympathies to all their players. We agree with Sir Leonard Hoffman, who has hinted in a letter to the Musicians' Union that we should take no notice of the conclusions his committee comes to (report, November 13).

The idea that reducing our orchestras in number would have the effect of producing a "super" orchestra here was ludicrous. London is not Boston, Chicago, Berlin, Amsterdam or Vi-

enna, and even the "super" orchestras of those cities cannot always quite achieve the high standards they set themselves. We believe that all of our London orchestras can play as well as any of those same orchestras, all of which enjoy the adequate support they deserve.

We also believe that most musicians, and those in the audience who know the background to the present situation, have more confidence in all four of our orchestras to make good music than we do in the Arts Council's ability to control their destinies.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BROOK-PATRIDGE
(Chairman),
JOHN AMIS,
BIRKETT,
HARRISON BIRTWISTLE,
PETER MAXWELL DAVIES,
BERNARD HARTING,
DAVID LLOYD JONES,
CHARLES MACKERRAS,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
MICHAEL TIPPETT,
The Royal Philharmonic Society,
10 Stratford Place, W1,
December 6.

From Ms Louise Honeyman

Sir, The letter from Nicholas Snowman, chief executive of the South Bank Centre (November 26), appears to be somewhat misleading. The orchestras which promote concerns at the South Bank are most certainly not subsidised by the South Bank Centre. Rather it is the contrary — the orchestras subsidise the South Bank Centre. The system works as follows: All orchestras pay a rental to the South Bank of approximately £1.70 per seat and in addition 13.5 per cent commission on all ticket sales. The SBC even sets a minimum guarantee, just in case ticket sales fall below a set percentage.

We have to pay 50 per cent of the commission charged on credit card sales and there is also a 17.5 per cent commission on our programme sales. All of these charges are in addition to the 17.5 per cent VAT which we have to pay to the Government.

This is in contrast to the Royal Albert Hall, where the basic rental is £1.80 per seat with a box office com-

mission of 11 per cent on ticket sales. The RAH does not receive a public subsidy.

It would be interesting to see precisely which events are being subsidised by the SBC — and by how much.

Yours sincerely,
LOUISE HONEYMAN
(Executive Director),
London Mozart Players,
92 Chatsworth Road,
Croydon, Surrey.

From the Managing Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra

Sir, Richard Morrison's perceptive article on the London orchestras ("Bureaucrats fiddle while music dies", Arts, December 6) refers to the Philharmonia's relationship with the South Bank being at "rock bottom". May I state that we have always worked constructively with Nicholas Snowman and the many excellent members of his team in a way which has, I believe, reaped benefits for the concert-going public.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WHELTON,
Managing Director,
The Philharmonia Orchestra,
76 Great Portland Street, W1,
December 6.

From Mr Harry Legge

Sir, As one heavily involved in the last failed attempt by the powers-that-be in the early 1960s to remove one of our great national orchestras based in London, may I recall the words of Sir Thomas Beecham, who after all was responsible for the founding and success of the three orchestras involved today.

On October 30, 1958, when interviewed by the BBC before a concert in which I played at Lincoln's Inn, he commented as follows:

In nothing, no profession, no occupation in the world except psychiatry, are there so many prizes and humbugs and intellectual scalliwags as there are in the unfortunate industry and craft and art of music. The whole arena is littered with these dreadful asses.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY LEGGE,
62 Messina Avenue, NW6.

America's democracy

From Mr Louis Heren

Sir, I am surprised and disappointed. After only a few days in Connecticut Simon Jenkins has become politically correct. It must be contagious, but his rewriting of early American history ("The politics of giving thanks", November 27) will not do. The Pilgrim Fathers and other early Puritan immigrants did not take democracy to America. New Englanders invented that myth to prove their superiority over lesser ethnic groups and, alas, they persuaded Tocqueville.

The first freely elected parliament in the New World was created in Virginia in 1619, one year before the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America. Moreover, John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony, abominated democracy. He wrote: "A Democratic is, amongst most civil nations, accounted the meanest and worst of all forms of government."

His theory did not last long, for the simple reason that free-born Englishmen did not stand for such nonsense, but political refugees fled to found Connecticut and Rhode Island before he admitted defeat.

As for "the slave-traders of Virginia", to quote Jenkins, Massachusetts was deeply involved in the slave trade and legalised slavery in 1641, twenty years before Virginia. By 1720 one sixth of Boston's population was black and Canon Mather, who had been presented with a slave boy by his grateful congregation, urged all blacks to recognise that they were better off as slaves.

By the way, the first Thanksgiving was celebrated at the Berkeley Hundred in Virginia two years before the Pilgrim Fathers feasted at Plymouth.

Yours etc,
LOUIS HEREN,
Fleet House, Vale of Health, NW3.

But is it art?

From Mr A. E. Brewer

Sir, Without considering the merit of Rachel Whiteread's Turner Prize-winning *House* (letters, November 29), I query its classification as a work of art. Ms Whiteread may have drawn the plans and presumably supervised the builders, but if so, is this not the work of an architect, not an artist? Does not an artist have to execute the work personally? And could it not be said that this is a copy of an existing structure, even if inside-out?

If my criticisms are not valid, I may enter this competition next year. I shall photograph Michelangelo's *David*, make a reverse print, engage a competent sculptor to create it and put my name to it. I shall not employ one of those sculptors who put large holes in all figures, or people might think that David lost.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BREWER,
154 Evelyn Avenue,
Ruislip, Middlesex,
November 29.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

TV and the regions

From Professor Emeritus George Wedell

Sir, Before Parliament approves the proposal of the Heritage Secretary (reports, November 25, 30) to cannibalise the carefully constructed regional pattern of independent television, I hope MPs will ask why the system was designed as it is. Mr Harold Lind and Mr Peter Ibbotson ("Greek tragedy, Whitehall farce", Media, December 1) illustrate, from opposed positions, the farcical tragedy imposed on independent television by this and the previous administrations.

The design of independent television, encouraging private enterprise in a framework of public accountability, has been the envy of those who make broadcasting policy across the world. The creation of independent regional companies antedated the current expansion of regional television throughout Europe by a generation. And the brilliant idea of making a majority commercial channel pay for a minority commercial channel will, no doubt, be emulated in due course.

The first two elements of this enviable structure were based on the two principles on which the Independent Television Authority developed the system in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The concern to avoid concentration of power led, for example, to the splitting of the London area into a weekday and a weekend service.

The principle of regional autonomy led to the creation of a plurality of independent companies, providing employment for television professionals around the country, giving local people access to television management, linking companies and their audiences, and providing options in programme production and scheduling.

None of these objectives are out of date. Mr Ibbotson's assertion that

If it is to thrive, ITV has no choice but to move from the fragmented ownership structure... Now ITV is truly commercial it must move to a more effective and efficient ownership structure

is wrong on both counts. Current audience research figures suggest that the present structure of ITV is economically sustainable well into the 21st century, unless unbridled greed becomes the dominant characteristic of the major contractors.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDDELL
(Secretary, Independent Television Authority, 1961-64),
18 Cranmer Road, Manchester 20,
December 4.

Urban bias?

From Mr David J. Holroyd

Sir, In 1991 the ITC, for no good reason, inflicted Carlton Television (slogan: "Television for London") upon those of us in the periphery of its so-called region (report, "Carlton opens TV takeover scramble", November 30). This has meant that already miserable coverage of regional news and interests has been worse, tinged with a near-total lack of interest in life outside the capital.

By contrast, Central TV has an east-west regional split, recognising and reporting comprehensively on life beyond its regional centre — Birmingham.

The Carlton record to date suggests that midlanders will do well to savour their local coverage while it lasts. Before long they could have Carlton "Television for London and Birmingham — and nowhere else".

I remain, yours faithfully,
DAVID J. HOLROYD
(Chief Executive,
HCS Management Consultants,
105 Church Road, Harefield, Essex,
November 29.

Traditional quilts

From Mrs Pamela Edwards

Sir, Your article (November 27) about a company specialising in hand-made traditional crafts created by people past retirement age quotes its founder as saying: "There is only one Durham quilt maker left in the country." What nonsense!

Quilting in all its forms, including traditional Durham quilting, is enjoying a spirited revival. There are at least a dozen quilting classes (many with waiting lists) going on in Co Durham alone.

Last year classic Durham quilting was used to make a replacement quilt for an historic bed in the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, Co Durham.

This year a team of quilters from Alington House, Durham, made a superb whole-cloth quilt with designs from Durham Cathedral to celebrate its 900th anniversary.

This has been seen by thousands of people.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA EDWARDS,
Alington House Community Association,
4 North Bailey, Durham,
November 29.

Budget impact on old and disabled

From Mr Richard Worsley

Sir, When viewed against the difficulty which society faces in providing adequate pensions, education, health and care for its young and frail elderly, there are strong arguments to support the Chancellor's decision to equalise the state pension age at 65 (Budget report, December 1), but only if other policies are changed.

Specifically, those who want or need to work in their third age must have access to good-quality jobs, which may often be on a part-time or self-employed basis. This requires an end to unjustified age discrimination, a massive overhaul of employment practices and provision of life-long education and training, accessible to all. Secondly, because older women are much more liable to face poverty than men, the savings made from the higher women's pension age must be used to benefit them in other ways. The announcement by Mr Peter Lilley of assistance for women who break their careers for caring responsibilities (report, December 2) is a useful step in this direction.

A further major concern is that if the basic pension rises only in line with prices, it will fall further and further behind general living standards; by 2030, it may be worth less than 10 per cent of average male earnings.

This means that there will be an increasing need for, and pressure on, younger people to arrange other sources of retirement income. For many, private pensions will be crucially important. The Government is already reviewing occupational pensions law. It should also urgently review personal pension schemes and the risks they involve.

Finally, although the Chancellor's statement included decisions to retain the basic pension and its value, it is not an acceptable option to continue the present undeclared policy of reducing state basic pension in relation to earnings without debating the consequences.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WORSLEY (Director),
The Carnegie Third Age Programme,
3 Robert Street, WC2,
December 2.

From the Director of the Greater London Association of Disabled People

Sir, Mr Peter Lilley's claim (report, December 2) that no genuinely disabled person will lose out on the new incapacity benefit is nonsense, as any genuinely disabled person will tell you.

Many disabled people are physically able to work but cannot find work because employers discriminate against disabled people. This discrimination is seldom based on anything like an objective medical assessment. It is frequently based on subjective ignorance, and sometimes on prejudice and outright hostility.

You cannot say that you are targeting benefits for disabled people in one breath and deny the most disabling influence in our lives in the next.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES HASLER, Director,
Greater London Association of Disabled People,
336 Brixton Road, SW9,
December 2.

Pesticide risk

From Dr Charles Shepherd

Sir, William Rees-Mogg ("Chemical folly on the farms", November 29) is quite right to argue for an urgent review of regulations governing the use of organo-phosphorus (OP) pesticides for both agricultural and domestic purposes.

Having been involved with a number of patients who predate the onset of chronic ill health to OP exposure, I have no doubt that, in some susceptible individuals, these chemicals do cause serious neurological damage.

However, as I recently reported in *The Practitioner*, chronic low-level exposure to OPs also damages key parts of the body's immune system and may result in mutation of chromosomal material. This, in turn, could explain why people who work closely with OPs appear to have a slightly increased risk of developing a lymph node tumour known as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Clearly, the time has come for the Ministry of Agriculture to examine carefully whether the widespread use of such neurotoxic chemicals may be causing far more health problems than we currently appreciate.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES SHEPHERD,
Friars Cottage, Queens Square,
Chalford Hill, Gloucestershire,
December 2.

No room at the shop

From Mr Charles Wide

Sir, Failing to find any religious books in a local bookshop, I asked an assistant for help. She showed me an inconspicuous handful of bibles and prayer books, saying: "We have had to move them down to the bottom shelf because of Christmas."

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WIDE,
Friars Cottage, Main Street,
Glapham, Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire,
December 3.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 6: The Prince Edward, President, this afternoon attended the Lord's Taverners' Caribbean Horizons Christmas Luncheon at the London Hilton, Park Lane, London W1.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, and Chairman, International Council, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening left Heathrow Airport, London, for New York, Dallas, Los Angeles and San Francisco, United States of America.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 6: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trusts this evening gave a Reception at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Honorary

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; and will attend the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards' regimental dinner at St James's Palace at 8.10.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, at 3.00.

The Prince of Wales will hold a reception at Wellington Barracks at 6.30 to launch the Roof of Americas Expedition.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Swansea, Oystermouth Road, West Glamorgan, at 11.00; and, as Patron of Citizens' Advice Bureau, will open the Barry bureau at 11.30 Broad Street, Barry, South Glamorgan, at 1.55. Later, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will attend a Festival of Trees gala dinner at the Natural History Museum at 7.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, as

Liverman of the Grocers' Company, will attend a court luncheon at Grocers' Hall at 12.35.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as

Honorary Freeman of the Gold and Silver Wreath Drawers' Company, will attend a tercentenary dinner at Guildhall at 7.15.

Princess Alexandra will present the Barclays youth work awards at the Mansion House at 6.30.

NEWS

Child agency change to aid fathers

The government is expected to bow to mounting pressure for reform of the Child Support Agency after an enquiry by MPs criticised the way it chases fathers for increased maintenance payments, and one family blamed it for driving a father to suicide.

Changes to the agency, likely to be introduced next month, could include the phasing in of higher payments and the consideration of expenses of second families. Page 1

Granada bids £595 million for LWT

Granada Group, owner of Britain's oldest ITV company and maker of *Coronation Street*, has started a bitter television takeover war by offering £595 million for London Weekend Television — the first hostile bid in the industry in more than a decade. Pages 1, 5, 19, 23, 25, 27

Father hangs on

Official attempts to get Peter Malkin to return his abducted son, Peter, 12, to his mother from Egypt have failed. Pages 1, 3

Easier divorce

The Lord Chancellor has proposed the introduction of one-year divorce. Pages 1, 7

Teaching morals

The government is insisting that sex education should emphasise moral responsibilities and family values as well as teach the mechanics of sex. Page 2

GATT grain deal

American and European negotiators agreed on EC grain export subsidies, a stumbling block to a world trade pact. Pages 1, 12

Car sales surge

Sales of new cars in Britain increased last month by 19.4 per cent, pulling the industry further out of recession. Page 9

Yeltsin's carrot

To win the votes of low-paid workers in next weekend's poll, President Yeltsin almost doubled the minimum wage. Page 14

Rape verdict doubt

The Appeal Court was told that re-evaluation of genetic fingerprint evidence threw into doubt the conviction of Andrew Deen for rape. Page 8

Moving up

Thousands of former Untouchables converted to Buddhism in a mass Indian ceremony. Page 14

Hubble gets made-in-Britain parts

British-built parts have been used to replace two old 40-foot wings which turn sunlight into electricity on the Hubble space telescope. During the operation, Tom Akers, one of the Endeavour's crew who took part in the replacement, logged a record total of 22 hours and 50 minutes space walking on shuttle missions. Page 15

Bulger trial echoes

Two boys of 10 and 11 are accused of stabbing a child of six and trying to kill him on a railway line, four days after the James Bulger trial ended. Page 1

Thatcher grilling

Baroness Thatcher will be questioned this week by the arms-to-Iraq enquiry. Page 11

Work less plea

Workaholic civil servants have been urged by their boss to spend less time at the office and more with their families. Page 11

Syrian thaw

Israel has welcomed Syria's offer to help trace seven Israeli servicemen missing in action. Page 15

Carrier back

Robert Carrier, 70, one of the great names in cookery, is returning to London's restaurant scene. Page 9

Paintings bonanza

Three paintings insured for £250 are expected to fetch £500,000 for St Martin's Church, Little Ness, Shropshire. Page 9

China door open

The door to further talks with China over Hong Kong has been left open by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary. Page 14

Nazis raid

An apparent neo-Nazi letter bomb exploded in a lawyer's office, the tenth aimed at Austrians helping refugees. Page 13



The Princess of Wales takes cover behind Virgin chairman Richard Branson as he sprays his newest Airbus with champagne. Page 3

BUSINESS

TV bids: The first hostile bid that

the television industry has seen in more than a decade was launched yesterday with a £595 million on-slaught on LWT (Holdings), the London weekend contractor, by Granada Group. Page 23

Satohi: Shares in the international advertising agency dropped almost 7 per cent after a warning of a profits fall. Page 23

Lloyds: The insurance market will today announce the terms of the compensation package to 21,000 names. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 closed 3.1 up at 3237.3. Sterling rose from £1.4912 to £1.4990 but fell from DM2.5641 to DM2.5565. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Ozzie Wheatley will play a

vital role in debate on future England teams. Page 42

Rugby Union: Despite injuries and illness, Oxford are favourites to beat Cambridge at Twickenham today. Page 44

Test Match: Australia amassed their highest total against New Zealand — 607 for six declared — and New Zealand neither hit the stumps nor appealed for leg-before in 752 minutes' play. Page 42

Boxing: You may not have heard of him, but apparently 'Englishman' Michael Bent is the heavyweight boxing champion of the world. Simon Barnes examines the WBA champion's credentials. Page 39

FEATURES

Russian legacy: Russia is being

asked to release the remains of the author of an eye-witness account of the revolution. Page 16

Marriage matters: Joanna Pitman on Japanese bachelors' search for foreign brides. Page 16

Court cases: Many judges should not be allowed near complex fraud cases; they are intellectually incapable of handling them. Page 35

BODY AND MIND

Panic stations: Many adults suffer incapacitating panic attacks. Cognitive therapy has proved more effective than drugs. Page 17

ARTS

Rattle's Vienna triumph: On his

debut with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at the weekend, the British conductor Simon Rattle triumphed. Page 31

Zappa's heyday: David Toop recalls one of the defining events of that *annus mirabilis*, 1968: the great Albert Hall concert played by Frank Zappa, who died on Saturday. Page 33

Scottish rivals: How did Glasgow manage to pinch the proposed new National Gallery of Scottish Art from under the nose of Edinburgh? Page 31

Showbiz table: Sheila Hancock plays the showbiz mother from hell in a revival of *Gypsy*. Page 32

THE TIMES TOMORROW

The write stuff

Sit down, turn out an essay, send \$100 and win a house. That is the latest slump-beating property craze in America, Rachel Kelly reports

Videos: the big question

Do video films cause crime? Media investigates the crucial issue about home entertainment

Albert's dream a reality?

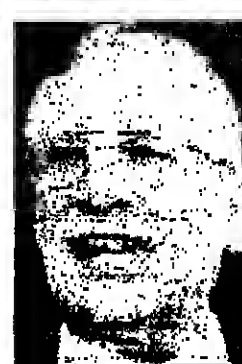
Three famous architects have come up with plans that would transform "Albertopolis", the museums area of South Kensington. Marcus Binney assesses their worth and their chances of approval



The Marquess of Bristol, given five months to try to break his addiction, has been sent to prison for 10 months on drugs charges. Page 3

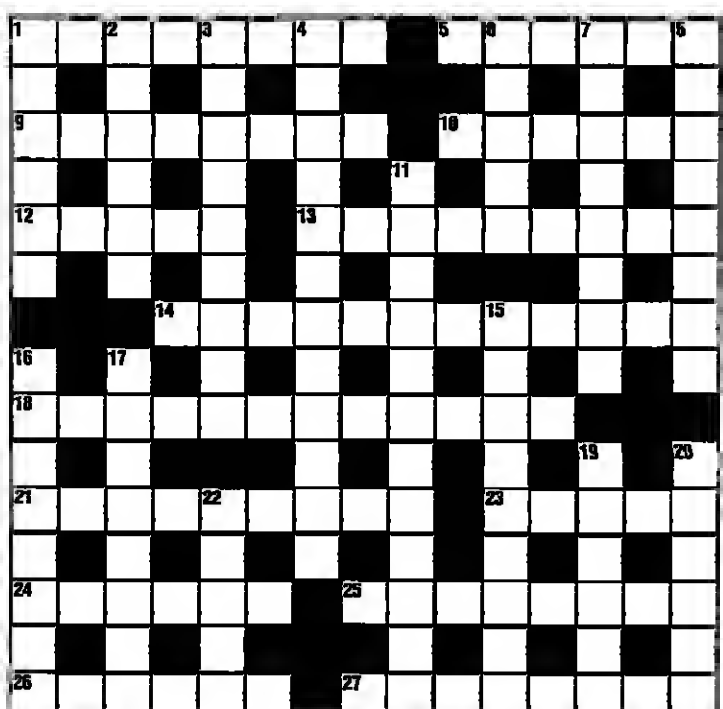


Beverley Allitt, serial child killer serving 13 life sentences in a security hospital, should go back to prison according to a psychiatrist. Page 8



Markus Wolf, former East German spy-master, was sentenced to six years for treason and bribery but has been freed pending his appeal. Page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,407



- ACROSS**
- Road raised over water, to create access (8)
 - To win confidence, get rid of weapons (6)
 - Severity of chik taking fellow off? (8)
 - Alarms sounded as beef is put into cans (6)
 - Strength of wines in cocktail (5)
 - Judgement on the way? (4,5)
 - Store in which to go mad (12)
 - Are chain-watches set by? (8,4)
 - Barcarolle re-written without right by Spanish gent (9)
 - Energy in attractive surroundings is relative (5)
 - One damaging article in Nigerian city (6)
- DOWN**
- Points in autos touch gently (6)
 - Pressing some of your gentians? (6)
 - Gift women lend to order (9)
 - Convert indigenous people in seconds? (12)
 - Bonds formed in clubs (5)
 - Turn away from exotic tea-blend (8)
 - Got off to a false start at Newmarket, for example? (8)
 - N.I. patriot, it's freely written, is in favour of separation (12)
 - Whole chess, say, made by fellows in foreign hamlet (9)
 - Gathering for ornamental needlework (8)
 - Press award panel (8)
 - Speed permitted in this Italian city? (6)
 - Match-official in wager is destitute (6)
 - The French hail-and-farewell (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,406

USERS EMBROIDERED
N A P X N O E H
D I S T E M P E R T U T T I
E A R O O T I N
R U L E R E M B A R K I N G
L E S E N
I L L N E S S D R O U G H T
N A N O H
G R A N D A I N T E N S E
T M N H
A D E R E N T S E I D E R
R S A E T S R I
R H O M B S H A R P N E S S
A M I T I N O A E
S T I A T I N O A E

TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wales, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Bedfordshire, Essex	705
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	706
West Midlands & Shropshire	707
Stratford & Warwick	708
Central Midlands	709
Lincoln & Humberside	710
East Midlands	711
Yorkshire & Cleveland	712
W & S Yorkshire & Dales	713
N.E. England	714
Cumbria & Lake District	715
S.W. Scotland	716
W. Central Scotland	717
Edinburgh & Borders	718
E. Central Scotland	719
Grampian & E. Highlands	720
N.W. Scotland	721
Orkney, Shetland & Islands	722
N. Ireland	723

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants.	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Southeast England will start wet and windy, but should become drier and brighter during the morning. Elsewhere there will be sunny intervals with showers, but much cooler. Showers will be heaviest in the north and west, turning to sleet and snow in places, with a few inches on the hills. Rain is expected in the far southwest by midnight. Outlook: wet and very windy weather spreading across most parts, showers following.

ABROAD

Algeria	18	61	a	Medrid	9	46	c
Algeria	21	70	s	Madrid	10	50	c
Algeria	22	71	s	Madrid	11	51	c
Algeria	23	72	s	Madrid	12	52	c
Algeria	24	73	s	Madrid	13	53	c
Algeria	25	74	s	Madrid	14	54	c
Algeria	26	75	s	Madrid	15	55	c
Algeria	27	76	s	Madrid	16	56	c
Algeria	28	77	s	Madrid	17	57	c
Algeria	29	78	s	Madrid	18	58	c
Algeria	30	79	s	Madrid	19	59	c
Algeria	31	80	s	Madrid	20	60	c
Algeria	32	81	s	Madrid	21	61	c
Algeria	33	82	s	Madrid	22	62	c
Algeria	34	83	s	Madrid	23	63	c
Algeria	35	84	s	Madrid	24	64	c
Algeria	36	85	s	Madrid	25	65	c
Algeria	37	86	s	Madrid	26	66	c
Algeria	38	87	s	Madrid	27	67	c
Algeria	39	88	s	Madrid	28	68	c
Algeria	40	89	s	Madrid	29	69	c
Algeria	41	90	s	Madrid	30	70	c

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Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (59F); min 6pm to 6am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1010.1 mbars, rising. 1,000 mbars = 29.93 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Falmouth, Cornwall: 12C (54F). Lowest day temp: Llandudno, Gwynedd: 4C (39F). Highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland: 0.7 in. Highest sunshine: Herne Bay, Kent: 7hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 8C (46F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.01 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 6C (43F); min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.2 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	2.54
Belgium Fr	16.93
Canada Cdn	56.79
Denmark Dkr	8.46
France Fr	6.55
Germany Dm	2.36
Greece Dr	334.20
Italy Lira	1,936.00
Japan Yen	160.90
Netherlands Gld	2.20
Norway Kr	4.76
Portugal Esc	200.48
Spain Ptas	166.64
Switzerland Fr	2.20
Turkey Lira	200.48
USA \$	1.60

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates set at close of trading yesterday.

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SMALL BUSINESS 30

See-through
watchdogs see off
the pests

ARTS 31-33

Vienna falls
to the power of
Simon Rattle

SPORT 39-44

The power
behind English
cricket's throne

WHERE
JUDGES GO
WRONG
Law 35-38

THE TIMES

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7 1993

LWT rejects £595m Granada bid

Windfall gains for senior managers if bid succeeds

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE first hostile bid the television industry has seen in more than a decade was launched yesterday with a £595 million onslaught on LWT (Holdings), the London weekend contractor, by Granada Group, the Corporation Street broadcaster.

The bid, after talks over the weekend when the two could not reach agreement, was immediately rejected by Sir Christopher Bland, LWT chairman, as failing to "reflect the past performance and future prospects of the company".

Gerry Robinson, Granada chief executive, said without Granada, LWT "risks being marginalised on a national, let alone an international, scale".

If successful, the bid would represent a further huge concentration of power within the ITV contractors, after last week's £758 million agreed takeover, pending parliamentary blessing, of Central Independent Television by Carlton Communications.

Those four contractors, once combined into two separate groups, would control more than 50 per cent of the ITV network's advertising revenue and would contribute two-thirds of the programming.

Granada, which accompanied the bid with a strong set of financial results, is offering six of its shares for every five in LWT. Granada shares slid 5p to 485p yesterday, valuing the offer at 582p and placing no bid premium on the shares, given LWT's price of 586p, up 1p.

Mr Robinson said LWT had risen 55 per cent since his company took a 17.5 per cent stake in June and "in our view was already up to speed with events." Granada is offering a 528p-a-share cash alternative.

Under the new regulations governing the television industry that are now on their way through Parliament and which have sparked both bids, LWT could avoid the takeover if it were in the meantime to link with another ITV contractor, ownership being limited to two franchise areas only.

But Mr Robinson said no other combination of LWT and another ITV company would offer the same benefits and a merged company "at best can be seen as a small, bid-proof but vulnerable operator."

Granada described its price as "full and fair" but has not ruled its offer final, leaving the possibility of a raised bid if the amount offered is not enough. The group insists that at this level a takeover would not dilute next year's earnings, but

only through identified, but unspecified, cost savings.

Mr Robinson said the advice of Lazard Brothers, the group's merchant bank, was that no further details on cost-cutting could be given, but it would only involve administrative staff where there was duplication between the two companies. "We don't anticipate the closure of studios or changes of management," he added.

Under the new rules governing the TV industry, LWT and Granada, if merged, will have to be run as separate, parallel TV stations. No assurances have been sought by, or given to, Sir Christopher and his management team about job security if the bid is successful.

Sir Christopher and more

than 50 of his staff face windfall gains of millions of pounds in some cases under the company's controversial management share scheme, put in place in 1989 to discourage defections before the last franchise round.

He said his company remained in favour of relaxing rules on TV ownership. "The issue here is, is this the right grouping for us? I can see why Granada needs LWT - I'm not sure that LWT needs Granada. We think we have a strong enough base to go it alone in the future."

Granada saw pre-tax profits improve from £114.9 million to £176.0 million in the 53 weeks to October 2, while cash flow coming out of the business was up £91 million to £153 million. A final dividend of 5.725p makes a total up from 7.7p to 8.75p.

While the sharpest rise in operating profits, of 41 per cent, came from leisure, the Granada TV operation saw a strong 30 per cent rise to £43 million after raising programme sales by 15 per cent to £79 million and pushing its share of advertising revenue among ITV stations ahead from 10.7 per cent to 10.9 per cent.

The Labour Party, which was highly critical of the Central bid and has said it will be voting against the relaxation of the rules governing the ITV network when Parliament debates the issue this week, said the takeover rules threatened regional production and regional identity.

Marjorie Mowlem, the shadow heritage minister, said: "What concerns me is that the present mergers will not necessarily strengthen the ITV system, because its strength lies in strong regional programme-making - that is what is crucial."



Camera angle: Gerry Robinson, Granada chief executive, armed for the LWT takeover yesterday

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

IN THE AIR



Westland hopes to reclaim £60 million of compensation after last month's cancellation of a £400 million Canadian order
Page 26, Tempus 27

INFLATED

Gas prices in Britain remain relatively high, despite the earlier freeze on British Gas tariffs
Page 24

FLAT



A rise in leisure profits from Scottish & Newcastle's holiday business countered a fall in its beer earnings
Page 25, Tempus 27

DEFLATED

The airport tax in the Budget could cost Airports, the second biggest holiday operator, £500,000
Page 25, Tempus 27

Saatchi warning knocks shares

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

SHARES in Saatchi & Saatchi, the international advertising agency, dropped almost 7 per cent yesterday after the company issued a warning that this year's profits will fall, and next year's income will be hit by the loss of two big clients.

The group, from which Charles Saatchi, one of the two founding brothers, resigned as a director late last week, said that further cost cutting this year will lead to special charges rising to £10 million from an initial £5 million estimate.

As a result, profits for the year ending next March will be reduced. Next year's revenue income will fall by £30 million after the loss of two big clients.

In Britain, Saatchi will save £1.2 million by moving out of its prestigious Mayfair offices in Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square.

The company pays a rental of £65 per sq ft at Lansdowne House but only occupies about 3,500 sq ft, having sublet most

Halifax trims mortgages

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Halifax building society, the largest lender, has kept its promise to cut its mortgage rate following the half-point base rate cut to 5.5 per cent two weeks ago.

Its standard mortgage rate will fall by 0.35 per cent to 7.64 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 8.1 per cent for endowments and 8.3 per cent for repayments). The cut takes effect immediately for new borrowers and from January 1 for others.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester, the sixth-largest building society, is also cutting its rate by 0.35 per cent. Both societies have passed on more of the base rate cut to borrowers than some of their rivals, which cut rates by a quarter of a percentage point.

Nationwide yesterday cut rates for savers by 0.5 per cent gross across the board, except for InvestDirect, its postal account, the Fixed Growth Bond and overseas accounts, which remain unchanged.

Lloyd's to announce settlement details

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

AROUND 21,000 badly hit names will today hear the terms offered by Lloyd's of London under its settlement initiative.

Names have been waiting eagerly for the announcement since Lloyd's first launched the settlement initiative in May.

In recent weeks, the tension has escalated as rumours have swirled around the market about how much Lloyd's will offer and how it will divide it up among the market's 21,000 loss-making names.

The figure most bandied about is £1 billion, made up from contributions by Lloyd's central fund, errors and omissions (E&O) insurers, members' agents and brokers.

Lloyd's, together with errors and omissions insurers, the insurers of the members' agents who are being sued by Lloyd's names, are expected to provide the lion's share of between £800 million and £900 million.

More than 21,000 names will hear today the details on how this expected £1 billion compensation package will be divided up between them.

But there are bound to be disappointments as the total amount of claimed losses stands at £3.5 billion at present.

The package is widely expected to favour the market's hardest-hit names and those with legal actions due to reach court first.

Furthermore, litigating names are expected to be paid more than the non-litigants on the same syndicates. If names accept the settlement offer, they have to give up their right to legal action against the members' agents.

El Merrett Holdings, the troubled insurance group, has reached agreement to sell the last of its syndicates, marking the end of its syndicates as an active underwriter. Non-marine syndicate 179, which had a capacity of £37 million in 1993, has been sold to Catlin Underwriting Agency for an undisclosed sum. The underwriting team, headed by Richard Lark, and support staff will transfer to Catlin.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

6.99% 7.8% APR

This mortgage offers the lowest 5 year fixed rate for more than 20 years. It's fixed at a rate of 6.99% (7.8% APR) for five years from completion. Furthermore, it's available on a straight repayment, endowment, pension or PEP basis. And unlike many others, it comes with no compulsory insurances. Don't miss out. For a written quotation, call John Charcol on (071) 611 7000, or Leeds (0532) 470 338. Alternatively, drop in and see us at 10-12 Great Queen St, London WC2B 8DD.

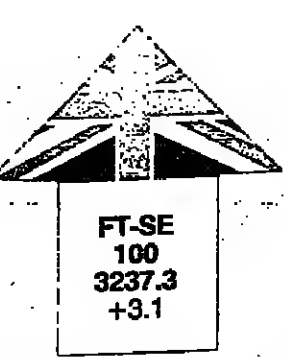
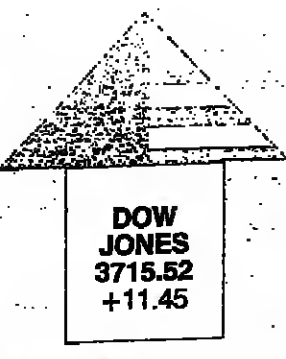
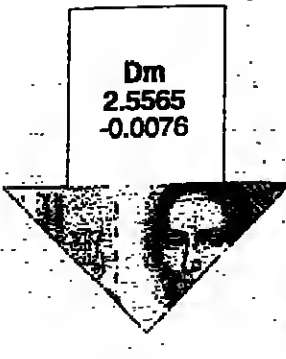
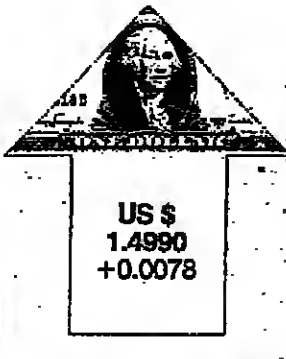
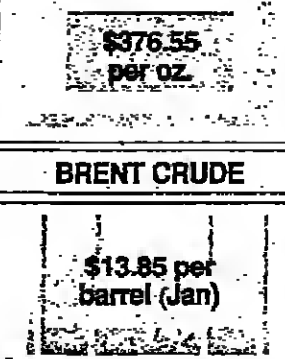
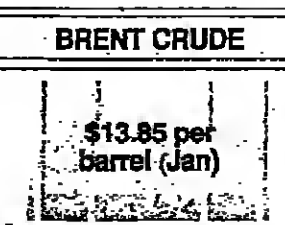
JOHN CHARCOL

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LONDON CLOSING PRICES		MARKETS IN DETAIL: PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 28			

Prices could rise if British Gas broken up

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GAS prices in Britain remain at a high level internationally despite the freeze in British Gas tariffs, a survey of worldwide gas charges showed.

The study gave warning also that large industrial gas consumers in Britain could well see prices rise if the government sanctions the break-up of British Gas. Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, is

considering the Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into British Gas, which recommended splitting the company by dividing its pipeline business from gas trading and supply as well as ending of its domestic market monopoly.

While key gas industry figures are in the final stages of lobbying on the issue, strong signs have emerged from the Department of Trade and Industry suggesting the Government may well refuse to sanction the

MMC's recommendations because of the rise in gas prices BG says will be necessary to effect its reorganisation.

In advance of Mr Heseltine's decision, National Utility Services, the cost control analyst, said in its latest survey of gas prices paid by business users in ten industrial countries, that, of those examined, Britain remained the fifth most expensive country.

Gas prices in Britain in 1993 were 1.19p per kilowatt hour. Italy topped

the price league table at 1.95p per kwh, followed by Germany at 1.43p and France at 1.39p. Lowest prices were charged in Canada followed by Australia and the US.

BG's price freeze also did no more than maintain the UK's place in the price change league table. Prices fell in Sweden — heavily, because of the abolition of a non-recoverable energy tax — The Netherlands and France, and rose most sharply in the US, where they went up 5.4 per cent.

driven by a rise in spot gas prices.

But NUS warned that current price stability in Britain could well alter given the "upheaval" in the gas industry if the Government acts on the MMC report. Andrew Johns, NUS director, said if the Government ratified the MMC report and the tariff market was opened to competition, the domestic consumer could ultimately benefit, but the industrial and commercial sector could suffer higher prices.

High street spending continues to fuel upturn

By COLIN NARBROUGH

CONSUMERS braked their borrowing sharply in October, after the powerful surge in credit demand the previous month, but the latest official figures still indicate that healthy spending growth is nourishing recovery.

The credit data were issued yesterday, as financial markets grew increasingly confident that more interest rate cuts were on the way. After last week's flurry of rate cuts in continental Europe, the Bundesbank is widely expected to lower its key rates before Christmas.

The Treasury has forecast that consumer spending will grow 2 per cent this year, providing a crucial boost for GDP, which is expected to have expanded by 1.75 per cent.

The Central Statistical Office figures showed that net new loans to consumers from building societies and finance houses, and on credit cards, fell to £311 million in October, from £489 million in September, a month marked by exceptionally high credit uptake for cars and household goods.

A 19.4 per cent jump in new car registrations last month to 127,674, underlined consumers' growing boldness. Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed that sales in the first 11

months of the year totalled 1,704,696, a rise of 12 per cent over the same period last year. Importers accounted for 55.5 per cent of the market.

A spokesman for the society said the increase in registrations was "startling" and forecast that new car registrations would reach 1.78 million by the end of the year.

Despite the month-on-month fall, October was the second-strongest month for consumer borrowing for two and a half years. In the three months to October, a better guide to the trend, net borrowing by consumers, excluding mortgage and bank overdrafts, was £1.03 billion, almost double the figure for the previous three months.

Finance houses' net lending of £349 million in October was the highest since January 1989. But consumers made a net repayment of £31 million on credit cards, in sharp contrast to the £106 million net borrowing in September. This probably reflected aversion to the high interest rates charged for plastic.

City forecasters expect Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut base rates again early next year, to meet his 1994 GDP growth target of 2.5 per cent despite the big tax increases due in April.

Car sales leap, page 9



Dr Patrick Haren, left, chief executive, and Sir Desmond Lorimer, chairman of NIE, which lifted profits 18 per cent

NIE powers ahead with half-time £42m

By CARL MORTIMER

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity (NIE) held out the hope of a slowdown in the rate of increase in bills because of the continuing slide in fuel prices.

The company, which yesterday announced an 18 per cent rise in profits to £42 million for the six months to September 30, raised tariffs by an average 6.6 per cent last year. Dr Patrick Haren, chief executive, said last year's rise was driven by anticipation of increases in

fuel costs because of the fall in sterling.

NIE has raised its interim dividend 13 per cent to 3.39p but profits are not expected to increase at the same rate in the second half, when it makes increased payments to generators. Sir Desmond Lorimer, chairman, said he believed the rate of dividend increase to be sustainable. He said the Northern Ireland economy had not suffered as much in the recession as the rest of the UK. Underlying sales growth in

the period, weather corrected, was 2 per cent, compared with 3 per cent in the year to March 1993, while new connections were 10 per cent ahead.

Turnover was up 9 per cent to £206 million. Sales of white and brown goods in NIE's 33 stores brought in a profit of £200,000 (£300,000 loss).

NIE has embarked on a cost-cutting drive to reduce the head count by a quarter from the 3,400 in September last year. The company took £3 million out of operating costs

over the year to last September, mainly because of reduced staffing. A further 600 jobs are to be cut by March 1996.

Capital expenditure is expected to be £50 million for the year. Outline planning permission for the £175 million Scottish Interconnector, which would enable Scotland to supply up to 20 per cent of NIE's power consumption, is expected in December.

Tempos, page 27

Political fears send Nikkei diving again

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

TOKYO stocks plunged yesterday as eroding confidence in the Japanese government's ability to tackle the economic slump gave the Nikkei another bad day. It fell 618 points, or 3.55 per cent, to close at 16,840.38.

Sentiment was hammered as people realised that the government might not unveil an expected package of economic stimulus measures this week. Brokers believed politicians had failed to reach a consensus and investors moved to take profits in the confusion. Arbitrage linked sales and a weak futures market helped to send share prices tumbling in a thin market.

Takeshi Hashizume, general manager at Yanai Securities, said: "The market rallied last week on hopes attached to the government's

economic stimulus plans. But those hopes have been dampened by uncertainty."

There was widespread speculation last week the government was planning a fresh economic package to counter fears of a stock market collapse. But Morihiro Hosokawa, the Prime Minister, said yesterday that such a package was not on the agenda. In a later news conference, Masayoshi Takemura, the chief Cabinet secretary, said steps to boost the economy may be taken before April.

Confusion over economic policy has fed speculation that the Bank of Japan is the only organisation willing to act on the economy. It was believed that the bank may soon have to cut the discount rate.

Stock markets, page 26

NHL plans return to homes lending

By SARAH BAGNALL

NATIONAL Home Loans intends to restart mortgage lending in 1994, after a gap of more than two years, though its rate for existing borrowers is still higher than those charged by its rivals.

The company withdrew from lending in 1991, when it was swamped by rising repossession and financial crisis. Last year, National Mortgage Bank, its mortgage arm, was one of the handful of banks supported by the Bank of England's lifeboat operation.

NHL is now on a stronger financial footing, as a result, it said it was able to cut its standard mortgage rate for existing borrowers from 9.95 to 9.45 per cent from February 1, passing on the 1.2 per cent cut in interest rates. This will narrow the gap between NHL and its rivals, which are cutting rates to about 7.75 per cent.

Jonathan Perry, chairman, said: "We are beginning to narrow the gap but it can't be done overnight." NHL is in talks with its bankers about funding to finance its re-entry

into the mortgage market and to strengthen the balance sheet.

Air Perry said it was "critical" that NHL returned to new mortgage lending to maintain and build profits. "It is only through this process that the natural run-off of the existing portfolio can be countered and shareholder value rebuilt."

The company unveiled a sharp improvement in its results for the year to September 30. Fewer provisions against mortgages, falling arrears and repossession, lower interest rates and tight cost controls combined to reduce operating losses from £159.4 million to £32.9 million.

The company paid £4.8 million in legal and professional fees, down from £8 million last time, and Mr Perry said that high charges were likely in the future. There is no dividend, and given the lack of a preference dividend for the past four years and negative distributable reserves of £153 million, "the payment of a dividend is not foreseeable".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Metallgesellschaft in talks with bankers

THE German company Metallgesellschaft, a leading ring-dealing member of the London Metal Exchange, is holding talks with two of its main banks, Deutsche and Dresdner, about help for losses on oil futures at a US subsidiary. The about help for losses on oil futures at a US subsidiary. The about help for losses on oil futures at a US subsidiary. The about help for losses on oil futures at a US subsidiary.

Avesco seeks £5m

AVESCO, the television and video services group, is looking to raise about £5 million through a placing of 4.06 million new shares to fund capital requirements at its VideoLogic multi-media operation. The placing is underwritten by SG Warburg Securities. Avesco also reported a pre-tax loss of £2.32 million (£23,000 profit) in the six months to September 30, on turnover of £10.9 million (£11.2 million). The losses mainly reflect planned investment in research and development and marketing at VideoLogic. There is a loss of 2.97p a share (0.025p earnings) and no interim dividend (nil).

Dobson Park tumbles

CUTBACKS in the coal industry took a toll on Dobson Park Industries, as the mining equipment to industrial electronics group reported lower full-year profits and cut its dividend. Pre-tax profits, under FR3, fell to £4.16 million in the year to October 2, down from £10.3 million last time. Profits were depressed by £4.59 million losses on disposals. Earnings tumbled to 1.42p a share (5.52p), while adjusted earnings before losses on disposals, were 4.65p a share. The final dividend is cut to 2.55p (8.85p), giving a reduced total of 3.75p (5.75p) for the year. The shares lost 4p to 85p.

Waste helps Leigh

LEIGH Interests, the waste management business, raised interim pre-tax profits by almost £1 million to £5 million after better growth in dry waste operations. Turnover was up 8 per cent to £56 million during the six months to September 30 but delay in implementing the EC landfill directive has slowed the redirection of liquid waste from landfill sites and restricted profits at new treatment plants. The company said that prices and volumes of liquid waste had fallen slightly but coal extraction had done better. Earnings per share rose from 4.4p to 5.5p and the interim dividend is kept at 2.46p.

Sheldon Jones cash call

SHELDON Jones, the pet food and garden products group, said it aimed to raise £1.35 million through a deeply discounted 25p a share rights issue, to bolster its finances and fund future development. Shares in the USM-quoted company fell by 15p to 48p. There was an increased pre-tax loss of £3.27 million for the year to June 30 (£1.28 million loss) on turnover of £14.9 million (£15.5 million). Sheldon Jones, which plans to move from the USM to a full listing, forecasts a £900,000 loss for the six months to December 31 and is changing its name to Pascoe's Group.

Oriflame leaps to £5m

PRE-TAX profits of Oriflame International, the cosmetics company, rose by 29 per cent to £5.4 million for the six months to September 30. The dividend was raised by 0.6p to 4.3p and the shares rose 7p to 302p in response. Oriflame lifted sales 11 per cent to £40.9 million. In spite of the depressed world economic climate, sales increased in all markets except America. The group said the purchase of the rights to market Fleur de Sané products in Eastern Europe had proved successful; sales in the Czech Republic were promising.

Faber raises dividend

FABER Prest, the industrial and distribution services group, reported full-year taxable profits of £5 million, up from £4.8 million. Earnings per share in the year to end-September rose 8 per cent to 34.4p, and the total dividend is increased from 12p to 14p, with a 9p final. The group, which is looking to increase the share of profits earned overseas, says market demand is not expected to grow in 1994. Faber has seen significant recent refocusing on its core steel services business, and said that area now produced two-thirds of its trading profits.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ACAL (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.3m (£1.33m)
EPS: 5.6p (6.3p)
Div: 2.25p (2.1p)

COOK (D.C.) HLDGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.01m
EPS: 1.71p (0.34p loss)
Div: 0.3p (nil)

DE MORGAN GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £24,000
EPS: 0.05p (0.27p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

HADLEIGH INDS (Int)
Pre-tax: £232,000
EPS: 3.1p (3.3p loss)
Div: 0.5p (nil)

MARLING INDS. (Int)
Pre-tax: £910,000
EPS: 0.29p (0.56p)
Div: 0.2p (nil)

CRT GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £472,000
EPS: 0.58p (0.48p)
Div: 0.75p (0.85p)

UGLAND INTL (Int)
Pre-tax: £779,735 loss
EPS: 0.98p loss
Div: Nil (nil)

VEGA GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £257,000
EPS: 3.54p (1.34p)
Div: 1.04p (0.87p)

Turnover rose to £37.7m from £30.9m and operating profits to £1.7m from £1.66m. Growth in UK expected to slow in second half

Loss in previous interim period was £144,000. Turnover rose to £75.1m from £52.3m. Motor division enjoying buoyant sales

The loss in previous interim period was £131,000. Investment transaction activity continues at higher levels

Last time there was a loss of £357,000. Gearing is at 52 per cent and strong balance sheet remains company's objective

Profit in previous interim period was £588,000. Continuing activities earned £1.73 million, against £1.99 million

Previous interim profit was £482,000. Results include closure and disposal costs of £471,000, compared with £557,000

Loss in previous interim period was £236,261. Directors intend to recommend payment of a final dividend

Previous interim profit was £404,000. Turnover rose to £4.5 million from £3.8 million. Growth continued in all markets

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□ Whorra lorra synergy for Granada and LWT □ In defence of brokers' bonuses □ No guarantees for a happy new year

Gerry's Blind Date

□ CHUMMY BUSINESS, television; it must be all those back-slapping awards ceremonies. The initial response from LWT to the hostile approach from Gerry Robinson's Granada is distinctly lacking in the usual fire-breathing rhetoric such texts normally attract — not an "unwelcome and opportunistic" to be seen. It is tempting, therefore, to conclude, as with George Bernard Shaw and his actress friend, that we have already settled the principle and are now merely haggling over the price.

If, as Mr Robinson insists, a mere tenth of ITV's net advertising revenue is not enough to avoid marginalisation, Granada needs LWT as a quick run down the NAR league table will show. Six companies pull in above that level. Carlton and Central are already in bed together, and Meridian is unassailable; indeed, Lord Hollick's MAJ, a 61 per cent shareholder in the latter and an ambitious player, could still put the boot on the other foot. Yorkshire is weighed down by a near-unbearable government levy and the Tyne Tees franchise, which would have to be unwound pretty fast by a hopeful bidder.

Clearly, Granada may have to pay to get LWT, or explain later why its own 10 per cent share is an exception to Mr Robinson's

rule. The group also wants access to LWT's programme-making capacity, more important than mere NAR share as producers look further afield than the network, and to its London base.

LWT can hardly expect to avoid Granada by linking with one of the others. Its own shareholders would first have to consider the Granada terms, acutely conscious that any such deal would have difficulty in offering sufficient synergies and savings to keep the share price nailed to the just short of £6 on offer, whence it has been pushed by the months of bid speculation. There remains the hope of a "white knight" from the Continent, in the rumoured shape of Bertelsmann or Radio Luxembourg's GLT, that would be prepared to bid way over the market odds — or anything the company is worth to Granada — for a strategic stake in English-speaking TV. But here Granada's 20 per cent stake could serve to frustrate any income.

On the face of it Granada's terms look generous. At 25.7 times' earnings for 1993, the first

year under the new franchise terms, they offer no scope for a 1994 profits forecast significantly better. Indeed, most current estimates suggest 23 times' that year's profits, which can only inch ahead on the back of slow-growing advertising revenue. LWT's best bet might be to find a "spoiler," a sugar daddy from among the ranks of those not yet allowed to bid, such as one of the publishing giants, that might be prepared to put up for a 20 per cent stake in the hopes that the rules of the game change again in a couple of years' time. But any such queue outside LWT's headquarters will be a short one.

Over-paid... and over here

□ ARE WE A nation of capitalists, little capitalists, dwarf capitalists or of persuasions entirely different? Happily, there is no ready answer to this un-seriously posed question. It is often argued that Americans are the only "natural" capitalists but it is argued over here, more so than over there. The twin blasts



of recession and unemployment during the run up to last year's Presidential election, prompted some distinctly "unnatural" reactions from middle class America: aimed fairly and squarely at politicians and big business. Wall Street, to all intents and purposes, came only third in taxpayers' sights, the perspective being that although Masters of the Universe could be accused of many things, hypocrisy was not necessarily one of them.

And what City dealers, in stockbroking houses and the like, have in their sights are substantial bonuses.

that in the wake of record levels of activity mid-year pre-tax profits had soared from £495,000 to £8.86 million.

Then, come this week-end, came news that partners of Goldman Sachs, big over there and almost everywhere, will each receive a minimum of \$5 million (£3.3 million) by way of profit shares this year. Even the most junior of Goldman's 161 partners will receive this sum — senior partners significantly more. Word also leaked that up to 70 of Goldman's London executives (including 26 partners) will receive remuneration of more than \$1 million this year.

The scale of the bonuses, astronomical even by Wall Street standards, reflects a dramatic upsurge in Goldman's pre-tax profits for the first three quarters of 1993 — estimated at \$2.3 billion compared with a corresponding \$940 million. This reflects, in large part, immensely profitable currency trading activities in the wake of sterling's exit from the EMS which, it has to be said, are exceedingly high risk occupations. George Soros, it may be recalled, tidied up on this

count and, courtesy of not a little philanthropy, was perceived as something akin to a financial Robin Hood.

As it is, the capitalists point out that Goldman has obeyed the Warren Buffet dictum, namely that bonuses must relate to performance. Little capitalists point to an average UK salary of £17,600, while the dwarfs toy with words such as "obscene." 'Twas ever thus. As for those on the rollercoaster: they are too busy dealing to philosophise.

Now is the autumn of contentment...

□ FIRST the good news. Car sales are still recovering sharply: November registrations were nearly a fifth higher than a year ago. Private sales are recovering along with fleet replacement, helping to boost consumer credit. Even before the latest upturn, car sales were leading an upsurge in credit enquiries, along with retail sales stimulated by renewed price-cutting and other higher value items. The October consumer credit figures show buoy-

ant net borrowing, even if they are slightly down on the one-off binge apparent in September. Over the past three months, new credit outpaced repayments by £1 billion, the best for three years and virtually double the May-July increase. And remember, it was thought consumers were holding back to find out how much the Budget would remove from their bank accounts.

The bad news is that car imports have again crept up above 55 per cent of the market. That is partly thanks to the popularity of the Ford Mondeo: Ford and Vauxhall imports alone accounted for nearly 18 per cent of the market and Peugeot a further 10 per cent. This indicates just how far an increase in demand for manufactures is likely to leak into imports and how long it takes to increase domestic sourcing from multi-nationals that make long-term decisions on siting and spreading their EC production.

More bad news: the Budget will remove quite a lot. That need not hit consumer confidence, which again carries the bait for recovery by default. Euphoric initial Budget reactions should help. As people start worrying about building society savings and, next year, feel the tax deprivations, euphoria might fade. Will the bait pass to exports and investment fast enough?

Friends Provident expands in £115m NM deal

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FRIENDS Provident, the mutual life assurance company, is to take over NM Financial Management Group for £115 million.

NM is the UK arm of National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, which has decided to concentrate on fast-growing Asian markets. Friends Provident has been on the lookout for acquisitions since its link with Abbey National, which marketed its life assurance policies, unit trusts and personal pensions, collapsed a year ago. Michael Doerr, managing director of Friends Provident, said the Abbey deal had been part of a move to widen the firm's distribution network. Friends Provident had realised the five-year relationship was unlikely to be permanent.

Lord Jenkin of Roding, chairman of Friends Provident, said the Abbey National link broke down because banks wanted to take over insurance companies — "and not to enter into partnership with them".

The NM acquisition will increase staffing levels by 700 to 3,700. Mr Doerr said he is unable to be specific about the likely level of job cuts until a group of working parties has reported back. But productivity gains were expected when some duplication was eliminated.

Friends Provident is also paying £115 million (£11.5 million) for NM's life and pensions company in Ireland. Friends Provident's Irish wing, including the NM operations, will be transferred to Eureka, a joint alliance with four other European insurance companies. The partners are still negotiating over the sharing of the cost of the acquisition.

The NM deal will add more than £2 billion to Friends Provident's existing £10 billion assets under management. NM's direct sales force will be retained and relicensed to sell Friends Provident products.

The acquisition will add 250,000 clients to Friends Provident's customer base, and increase its number of policies by 350,000 to 2.55 million.

Joint premium income will be increased by £350,000 to £1.3 billion. It will increase Friends Provident's market share from 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

S&N looks to the season for signs of economic cheer

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

CHRISTMAS trading will be the key to judging the impetus of the UK's economic recovery, said Scottish & Newcastle as it revealed that its European holiday business helped offset falling beer profits at the half-way stage.

Brian Stewart, chief executive, said the economy remained fickle, adding: "Christmas sales will not only

be important in the immediate financial contribution they make to the annual results, but also as an indicator of consumer attitude to spending. This will be even more relevant this year given... the Chancellor's fiscal initiatives."

S&N's taxable profits edged ahead up to £108.9 million from £107.2 million in the six months to end-October on

sales up 2 per cent to £773.7 million. Shares fell 15p to 523p as investors digested the cautious tone and small dividend rise to 5.99p (5.76p) a share.

Beer profits fell to £50.4 million from £53.9 million, although the group outperformed the industry on branded volumes, with sales showing a 2 per cent decline against a market down 3 per cent. Brands such as McEwan's Export, Theakston's and Beck's all did well, said Mr Stewart.

Retail division profits edged up to £29.2 million (£28.4 million), with the group particularly pleased about the potential for food sales, which rose 5 per cent. The chief executive said the integration of the Chief and Brewer pubs estate, bought from Grand Metropolitan this year, would be complete by the beginning of the next financial year.

Industry analysts believe cost savings of £15 million a year may accrue within two years from the strategic link, which has propelled the group into southern England.

S&N's Center Parts holiday villages business performed well on both sides of the Channel. Mr Stewart said villages in the UK and Benelux countries were seeing 90 per cent occupancy rates. Bookings are up 16 per cent against a year ago, and a new Center Parc village will open at Longleat next summer. The leisure division, which also includes Pontins, saw profits up to £42.4 million (£38.8 million). Overall earnings per share rose 2 per cent to 17.7p.

Dermot Carr, at Panmure Gordon, is sticking with his full-year profits forecast of £215 million for S&N.

Tempos, page 27
City Diary, page 27



Brian Stewart, who has rising profits to celebrate

Call to harmonise hotel values

AN AGREED method of valuing hotels has been suggested by the British Association of Hotel Accountants. The move follows criticisms of the struggling hotels group Queens Moat Houses (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The association says hotels should be valued by the discounted cash flow approach, which involves calculating expected receipts, payments and

the operating performance of a hotel together with expected capital expenditure over a period of time, and any residual value.

The move is designed to stop vast discrepancies in asset valuations. Queen's Moat Houses were valued by Jones Lang Wootton at £861 million in 1992 — a far cry from the previous year's £2 billion valuation by Weatherall Green & Smith. People buying hotels

have also been caught out. The hotel accountants' association said that in 1989, when the average value per room was £55,000, Mount Charlotte bought Thistle hotels at £120,000 per room.

Some of the bigger valuers, including Jones Lang Wootton and Richard Ellis, helped to draw up the guidelines and hope that their adoption will encourage others to follow suit.

Airtours 'faces £500,000 bill' over Budget airport tax

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

NEGOTIATIONS between the travel industry and the Government over the Budget imposition of the airport tax could cost Airtours, the second-biggest holiday operator, £500,000 if unsuccessful.

The industry is lobbying to have the imposition of the tax delayed from next October 1 to the end of that month. Prices in holiday brochures normally run to the end of that month, and the industry will have to absorb the cost of the tax for that month, before new brochures can be drawn up that include the extra cost. But

David Crossland, Airtours chairman, said he does not believe the £5 tax, which will comprise only a small proportion of the £30 average cost for a short-haul holiday, will serve as a brake to the industry's expansion.

Airtours was unveiling full-year figures that showed sharp improvements in market share and profitability, even after the effects of two acquisitions made during the year, and after the failed bid for Owners Abroad, the rival holiday company. Pre-tax profits rose £9 million to £45.5

million in the year to September 30, even after a £9 million charge to cover the costs of the abortive bid. An 8p final dividend makes a total raised to 9p (7.25p). Earnings per share were 29.22p (27.47p).

Mr Crossland said winter season bookings were 38 per cent ahead of the previous year and the market share up from 17 to 19 per cent. For next summer, early bookings have shot ahead 53 per cent and Airtours is looking for a share up three points to 24 per cent.

Tempos, page 27

Whitecroft in the black at half time

WHITECROFT, the building products, lighting and textiles company that has been undergoing a restructuring, returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £1.82 million (£29.3 million provision-laden loss) in the half year to September 30. Turnover fell to £60.7 million (£64 million).

Earnings stood at 3.6p a share (68.2p loss). Again, there is no interim dividend. A decision on the restoration of dividend payments has been deferred until a full year's trading has been completed. The net asset value is £2.4p (81.9p) a share. The shares added 5p to 77p.

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MERCEDES DRIVE

by

Europcar

Paramount sought Thorn takeover

By PHILIP ROBINSON
AND MARTIN FLANAGAN

PARAMOUNT Communication, the Hollywood film and television group, held takeover talks with Thorn EMI soon after the British company became one of the world's largest music groups by buying Virgin for \$1 billion. Paramount wanted the music division and attempted what it called a merger of equals.

The tale of an aborted deal is contained in documents at the Delaware Chancery Court in America. They were lodged as part of Paramount's fight against a hostile \$10.6 billion bid from QVC Network, the shopping channel, and merge instead with Viacom, a cable television programme maker that owns MTV. The

papers describe how the talks ran aground last autumn when Thorn insisted that if Paramount wanted to buy the company it would have to be with an all-cash bid.

Paramount then considered offering \$4.4 billion in cash for Thorn's music business and spinning off its other divisions to Thorn shareholders. But the film studio feared this would be rebuffed by Thorn, forcing it to make a hostile offer that could have triggered a bidding war.

Simon Duffy, Thorn EMI's finance director, confirmed that last year Paramount had suggested "a premium-free merger to take advantage of multi-media convergence". Mr Duffy said of a meeting with senior Paramount people: "A scheduled two-day meeting finished before the

end of the first day after we said a premium-free merger really meant a takeover of Thorn."

Thorn told the Americans to table a formal offer if they wished, which Thorn would be obliged to put to its shareholders. No offer had since been forthcoming, added Mr Duffy. He said he was unaware of any further full-scale merger talks between the parties, but confirmed that Paramount and Thorn had discussed ways in which they could co-operate.

Other options Paramount considered are: merging with Ted Turner's empire, which owns CNN; paying \$3 billion for NBC; and merging with Tele-Communications Inc, America's largest cable operator now backing QVC against Paramount.

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heavily
1000

Other television companies lost ground, dealers taking the view that bid speculation

Avesco, the television services group, firmed 2p to 126p, despite sliding into the red at the half-way stage. The group is raising £5 million through a placing. The money will be used to expand its VideoLogic subsidiary, which will eventually be demerged.

unimpressed by full-year pre-tax profits only £1.7 million ahead, at £108.9 million.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts were boosted by renewed talk of another rate cut; the shorter end of the market made most of the running. Treasury 9½

MICHAEL CLARE

The triumph of the old style Left in the Italian municipal elections caused no shock in the markets yesterday, which only helps to show that markets are indeed dominated

old socialist Jacques Delors proposes a European make-work package of public works, while in America the budget-balancing President Clinton backs a ten-year, \$250 billion infrastructure

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MONEY MARKETS
Exchange index compared with 1985 was down 22.0

72
117
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130

Coal Invs	18	...	Mashead Inco (100)	104	+1	Raglan n/p (100)	26	...
DFS Furniture (260)	285	+2	Milligate (40)	42	...	Rhino n/p (49)	18	+2
Deflan Lloyds Inv Trs (100)	97	-1	Morgan Grnd Eoy C (100)	101	...	Siebo n/p (485)	64	...
Emerald Energy (1)	2	...	NM Smilr Aust (100)	100	...	Wywale Garden n/p (152)	19	...

MAJOR INDICES

LONDON FINANCIAL

Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
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	Period	Open	High	Low	Close Volume
FT-SE 100					
Previous open interest: 76994	Dec '93	3252.0	3299.0	3237.0	3251.5 7147
	Mar '94	3270.0	3300.0	3265.0	3268.0 7208
Three Month Sterling	Dec '93	93.70	94.62	94.68	94.68 7149
Previous open interest: 421276	Mar '94	94.95	94.98	94.92	94.94 14753
	Jun '94	95.10	95.10	95.13	95.15 20529
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec '93	95.53	95.53		95.52 167
Previous open interest: 14999	Mar '94	96.11	96.02		96.02 281
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec '93	93.92	93.93	93.90	93.90 22342
Previous open interest: 7,90326	Mar '94	94.61	94.64	94.60	94.63 17716
Long Gilt	Dec '93	118.10	118.11	118.02	118.10 1340
Previous open interest: 134933	Mar '94	118.41	118.41	118.41	118.41 1889
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec '93	117.70	117.74	117.72	117.72 189
	Mar '94	116.55	116.28	116.49	116.53 881
German Gov Bd Bohl	Dec '93	103.93	103.93	102.70	102.73 7082
Previous open interest: 1498	Mar '94	103.19	103.19	103.15	103.15 4162
German Gov Bd Bond	Dec '93	100.05	100.10	100.00	100.00 41482
Previous open interest: 163193	Mar '94	100.12	100.10	100.02	100.07 41482
Three month ECU	Dec '93	93.45	93.47	93.44	93.45 427
Previous open interest: 28280	Mar '94	94.17	94.19	94.15	94.17 2793
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec '93	95.66	95.74	95.67	95.74 493
Previous open interest: 91,304	Mar '94	95.65	95.65	95.65	95.65 493
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar '94	114.25	115.18	114.30	114.78 41887
Previous open interest: 8071	Jun '94	114.30	114.30	114.30	114.85 25

<p>resubmitted to further use of the gains made last week. In addition all day, firming in New York failed to March position. Sugar New York market.</p>		<p>TCIS-LOR (London 6:00paw: With trading oil prices hitting five low lows in the US, other oil prices slid lower.</p>	
<p>GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES</p> <p>WHEAT Ireland Lit</p>		<p>CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)</p>	
Jan	100.35	Brent Physical	13.00 -0.15
Mar	101.61	Brent 15 day Jan	13.95 -0.10
May	103.30	Brent 15 day (Jan)	13.85 -0.15
Jul	105.00	WTex Intermediate (Jan)	14.80 -0.15
Sep	106.65	WTex Intermediate (Feb)	15.10 -0.10
Volume	54		
<p>BARKLEY LIT</p>		<p>PRODUCTS (\$/MT)</p>	
Jan	104.31	Spot CIF NW (any of)	Delivery: ISI 1-11
Mar	105.66	Premium Gas 15	Bed: 149-151
May	107.40	1.5% Eth 15	Mar: 145-147
Sep	109.65	SEC Eth 14 Jan	151 1-29
Volume	17	1.5% Eth 14 Feb	150 1-29
		3.5% Fuel Oil	152 1-29
		Naphtha	155 1-29
			136 1-1/2
			138 1-1/2
<p>HIMPRO INTA</p> <p>Ireland Lit</p>		<p>IPE FUTURES</p> <p>Gas Oil</p>	
Jan	104.31	Dec	145.50-46.00
Mar	105.66	Jan	145.50-46.00
May	107.40	Feb	145.50-46.00
Sep	109.65	Mar	145.50-46.00
Volume	17	Feb	145.50-46.00
			Vol 17125
<p>POTATO</p> <p>Open Close</p>		<p>BRENT (\$/bblpm)</p>	
Jan	104.31	Jan	13.84 13-1/2
Mar	105.66	Feb	14.01 14-1/2
May	107.40	Mar	14.21 15-1/2
Sep	109.65		Vol 26251
Volume	20		
<p>UNWEADED GASOLINE</p>		<p>RIBFLEX</p> <p>Bed Lit (\$/bbl pm)</p>	
Oct	155.75 SLR	Dec 03	High: 1255 Low: 1255 Close: 1240
Nov	146.00 SLR		
Feb	154.75 SLR		

Jan 60 00 00 00 00	Vol 124 Refs. Open air: 3250 Index 1251-2
(Priced) (Advance price day)	
Copper Grade A (3-tonnes)	London Metal Exchange
Lead (3-tonnes)	Refined
Zinc (3-tonnes)	Vol 144 Refs
Aluminium (3-tonnes)	
Nickel (3-tonnes)	

[illegible]

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co.)

Bullion: Open \$376.60-377.00	Close: \$376.30-376.80	High: \$376.75-377.25
Low: \$375.70-376.20	Kruggerand: \$376.00-378.00	£250.00-£252.00
Sovereigns: OM \$96.00-99.00	£57.50-59.50	New \$96.00-99.00
£57.50-59.50		
Palladium: \$374.25-£230.50	Silver: \$4.82 (£3.215)	Palladium: \$124.25-£83.15

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THEATRE page 32
Sheila Hancock plays
the showbiz mother
from hell in a revival
of the musical *Gypsy*

ARTS

ROCK page 33

The Zappa years:
David Toop remembers
the great Albert Hall
extravaganza of 1968



VISUAL ART: The fruits of a National Gallery residency; and a challenge to Edinburgh as Scotland's home of art

Unfinished business on his easel

Inspired by the
Old Masters,
Ken Kiff
launched into an
orgy of painting.
Richard Cork
views the result

At first sight, Ken Kiff's exhibition suggests that he has been defeated by his 18 months' residence at the National Gallery. I have never seen a show where so many of the paintings remain frankly unfinished. Some appear to be little more than beginnings, scrawled and tentative hints at the fully formed images to come. Others have reached a greater elaboration but, even here, they tantalise us with their undisguised haziness in extensive areas of the composition. So, does the survey testify to Kiff's feelings of inadequacy, as an artist overawed by his daily proximity to the great paintings of the past?

The answer, after initial disquiet has subsided, points in a very different direction. For one thing, Kiff has always been a notoriously slow worker. Addicted to worrying over his pictures for many years, he was hardly likely to change his habits when the National Gallery appointed him as its second Associate Artist. The alarming lack of completion in this survey simply reflects the normal procedures of a painter who starts a canvas, waits for it to dry, returns to the image and gradually, through a cumulative process, arrives at a coherent picture.

If his response to the collection at Trafalgar Square had been less intense, Kiff might have concentrated on a few works and pushed them further. But he became engrossed by repeated encounters with his favourite paintings and, in a burst of activity, found himself commencing about 50 images. Far from feeling daunted by the National Gallery, he reacted with accelerating enthusiasm. And the outcome proves that Kiff's individuality was sharpened rather than diminished by his decision to use particular Old Masters as the springboard for his art.

The most faithful exhibit is his charcoal and pastel drawing after Pissarro's *Vision of Saint Eustace*. Reducing the original painting virtually to monochrome, he ends up draining it of solidity as well as colour. I have always viewed the Pissarro in fairy-tale terms, as a beguiling fantasy about enchantment in



Domenichino's *Landscape with Tobias laying hold of the Fish*, above, inspired Ken Kiff's *After Domenichino*, right

the woods. But it now seems earthbound and anchored in realism compared with Kiff's ethereal alternative. His version resembles a dream, indistinct and liable at any moment to fade away altogether.

All the same, Kiff adheres quite closely to the disposition of forms in Pissarro's painting. His starting point remains easy to recognise, whereas most of the exhibits depart with freedom from their sources. In the wide, scroll-like drawing based on Rubens's flamboyant *Peace and War*, all the figures who fill the painting's centre with their robust amplitude have been swept away. The bare white tree near the middle of Kiff's drawing indicates that nature has been decimated by some conflagration. Rubens's theme is here reinterpreted by an artist for whom the term "war" now carries the threat of a nuclear winter.

Kiff's wispy handling of pigment could hardly be further removed from Rubens's swaggering fleshiness. Sometimes, his exhibits are so unfinished that they look clumsy and inchoate. The straggling lines and thin, stained paint made me long, at times, for a greater sense of certitude and panache. Appraisal becomes difficult when an entire exhibition is filled with works-in-progress.

Take the painting which Kiff has based on Crivelli's *Dead Christ*. In the original, the redeemer's body is propped up by a pair of angels, whose concern for the corpse is movingly

conveyed. Kiff, however, dispenses with most of these figures and transports us instead to a mythological landscape. Swollen green hills rise like breasts against a lemon-yellow sky, and the only identifiable trace of Crivelli's participants is the oddly severed forearm lying on the ground.

Most perplexing of all are the outside red lips hovering in the air. They introduce a Surrealist mood utterly at odds with Crivelli's sober painting, but the unfinished nature of Kiff's picture prevents me from telling whether the lips will dominate the final image.

What does seem clear, though, is his willingness to depart radically from the Renaissance prototype. Kiff's admiration for Crivelli in no sense prevents him from asserting his own imaginative priorities. The picture he presents here has just as much in common with Eastern art as with the Western paintings preserved at Trafalgar Square.

Writing in the catalogue about his time at the National Gallery, Kiff confesses that "I felt pulled apart... because of the tradition that is here and the tradition that is not here". The kinship he feels with non-European art has been widely shared in the 20th century by other Western painters, not least Klee and Miró who Kiff singles out

'I longed for a greater sense of certitude'

Patenier's painting. But the rocks rising far above him already take on a more eruptive energy. Kiff sees the landscape as a living force, swayed by flux and liable to change without warning. By the time he produced the third drawing, Jerome has been



relegated to the left side of a panorama no longer dominated by the rocky outcrops. They are now subservient to a river surging through the centre, and the right half of the picture becomes a shadowy backdrop for a wild, erotic female apparition. The diminutive Jerome stands in her direction, as if astonished to discover that his chaste solitude has been invaded by such an enchantress.

Like the lips in the Crivelli study, the woman appears to embody Kiff's belief in female redemptive power. He has no hesitation in allowing her to replace the Christian emphasis on a male God, just as he liberates his landscape from the perspectival propriety observed by Patenier.

The most potent example of Kiff's love of metamorphosis occurs in his homage to Domenichino's little *Landscape with Tobias laying hold of the Fish*. Like Domenichino, he paints this study on copper. The metal glints through the

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Gallery coup for Glasgow

Gillian Bowditch on the furore over the National Gallery of Scottish Art

The civic pride of Scotland's capital city has been severely dented by the award of the new National Gallery of Scottish Art to Glasgow.

The cultural elitism of some groups in Edinburgh and the assumption of many in the city that it is the natural home of the arts in Scotland has been brutally challenged. The decision is a bold one and presents an opportunity which Glaswegians are likely to seize with gusto. The safe bet for the trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland would have been to give the gallery to Edinburgh and side-step the furore. The decision, says Angus Grossart, chairman of the trustees, was made in the best interests of Scotland.

The idea of a gallery devoted to Scottish art is not a new one. It was recommended in the Williams Committee Report of 1981. Ten years later the trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland launched their proposal for the gallery, and the fight between Glasgow and Edinburgh began.

Glasgow proposed four sites for the gallery and Edinburgh proposed seven. This summer Glasgow came up with three detailed proposals including designs by Sir Norman Foster and Terry Farrell for a new building in Kelvingrove Park. It was the Kelvingrove option which finally swayed the board of trustees.

Grossart is keen to point out that while the tendered designs for the new building will be considered, the trustees are not obliged to accept either. An architectural competition to find a new design has not been ruled out.

Glasgow, often seen as the poor relation of Edinburgh, won the bid on merit. "There was no single factor," says Grossart. "The promise of loans of work, the potential number of visitors and the number of dynamic features of the development potential all played a part." It is estimated that 750,000 people will visit the new gallery each year, double the number which visited the National Gallery in Edinburgh last year.

Kelvingrove Park was chosen for its unrivalled position in the West End of Glasgow close to the existing Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and also the University of Glasgow. The new gallery, which will cost between £25 million and £30 million, is expected to open in five years' time. It will house 95 per cent of the national galleries' 2,000 Scottish works.

All 600 works currently in the collection of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, situated in Edinburgh's Queen Street, will move to the gallery in Glasgow and form the core

of the Scottish collection. A further 720 works housed in the National Gallery of Scotland and the National Gallery of Modern Art, both in Edinburgh, will move across to Glasgow, although 70 key Scottish paintings will remain in the Edinburgh galleries to show them in their international context.

As part of its bid, Glasgow promised loans of work to the new gallery by the Glasgow Boys, the Scottish Colourists and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, an offer which played a significant part in the final decision.

There has already been an outcry in Edinburgh over the fate of the portrait gallery, with allegations of "cultural barbarism". The city may be placated if the historic Findlay building, which houses the portraits, is used imaginatively. The trustees have suggested it could become a museum of architecture, a national sculpture museum or a location for temporary exhibitions by amateur and professional artists. The final decision rests with the Scottish Office.

The new gallery will comprise 2,597 square metres of hanging space and will house an artists' studio, a conference suite, a lecture theatre, an integrated library of Scottish art and a complete computer-based image bank of Scottish material capable of being accessed from other locations, as well as the usual restaurants and bookshops.

How the gallery will be financed has yet to be decided. One factor in the decision to award the project to Glasgow was that it may be able to access European development funds. Grossart says that capital could be attracted from a number of sources. "We will be looking at the National Lottery, the Millennium Fund, European money and, because this is a major project for Scotland, it may attract large private benefactors."

One of the main benefits of the new gallery is that it will allow many of the 900 Scottish paintings currently in storage to be aired. Timothy Clifford, director of Scottish national galleries, says: "For the last 400 years, Scotland has produced a succession of great artists and designers. For too long many of their works have lain hidden from public view in the galleries' storerooms, due to lack of exhibition space."

The creation of the new Gallery of Scottish Art at Kelvingrove will offer the opportunity to tell the full story, not only of the art of Scotland, but also of the country's history. It will be a fitting project for the millennium.

Rattle triumphs on Vienna Phil debut

Michael Henderson reports on the sensation following Simon Rattle's first concert with the world's premier orchestra

Never forget, Metternich once said famously, that the Balkans begin at the gates of Vienna. Last weekend it was not the Balkans one could see from the Musikverein but the Birmingham Bull Ring as Simon Rattle, miracle-worker of that parish, stormed the imperial city's musical ramparts with two performances of Mahler's Ninth Symphony that defied description.

If a single word can convey the impact of his astounding debut with the Vienna Philharmonic, it is "unbeatable". On each occasion Rattle was summoned back for a personal ovation after the musicians had departed. All round the hall people were speechless.

It is risky to mint superlatives where Rattle is concerned, because no sooner has he scaled the Eiger than he is marching up the Jungfrau. What one can say with some certainty is that a long and harmonious relationship was forged last weekend. Selflessness was the key to this collaboration between great orchestra and great conductor. Never did one think "what a great conductor Rattle is", rather, it was "what a great composer is Mahler". It was no less a triumph for the orchestra, at the end of a vexing

week in which the Vienna players publicly called the bluff of Gerard Mortier, the foghorn-voiced director of the Salzburg Festival. If you don't value our contribution there, we'll stay in Vienna was the gist of it. Judging by the warmth of their reception when they took the stage on Saturday afternoon the musicians have public approval.

How magnificently they played. Throughout the week word emerged that something exceptional was occurring at rehearsal (they allowed Rattle five) as he acquainted them with a symphony they last played under Bernstein. Unwelcomed as comparisons can be, particularly with Bernstein who had a special relationship with this orchestra, they may never have given a more deeply-felt performance. Played like this it requires no special pleading to claim the work as the greatest symphony of the century.

"Music is not about nothing," Rattle has said. "It must be about something." Here, as he uncovered layer upon layer in an opening movement of heart-rending transcendence, the music brought to mind Auden's lines: "When I imagine a faultless love, or the life to come, what I hear is the murmur of underground streams, what I see is a limestone landscape."

Love is at the heart of this symphony — not self-love, which applies to many of its interpreters. As is his custom, Rattle has lived with this work for several years and is still two years away from recording it with his Birmingham orchestra. At the end of a year which has brought a stack of personal triumphs, this was surely his finest hour and a half. Moreover, by bowing to the orchestra, which acclaimed him

to a man, he acknowledged it. We live in a rum old world when the BBC can devote a 50-minute documentary to the art of conducting, as it did two weeks ago, and not mention once the man who is doing more than anyone to bring it back into repute. Instead the programme-makers opted to air the views of a man who recently pulled out of a concert in Berlin, "retired hurt", despite an injury-free rehearsal. The fact that the hall was less than half-full had nothing to do with it, naturally.

Rattle is so far removed from the world of image-making that one can scarce forbear to cheer. Hans Landesmann, Mortier's co-director in Salzburg, recalled Rattle bringing the CBSO to Vienna in 1982 for a Stravinsky Festival in the Konzerthaus which he then ran. "So it has taken 11 years for Simon to reach the Philharmonic," he reflected. That is a lifetime in an



Rattle: summoned back for ovation by Viennese audience

age of international travel and hefty contracts. It could have been different. In 1983, not long after Rattle had made a memorable Berlin Philharmonic debut with Mahler Six, Herbert von Karajan telephoned him, inviting (instructing?) him to conduct the Viennese in *Figaro* at the Salzburg Festival because "I'm

too old to do these days". Rattle hardly had time to mention his Mozart commitments at Glyndebourne with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment before Karajan spluttered "I prefer to do it Mozart-style" and slammed the phone down.

Teasingly, Landesmann had asked Rattle beforehand: you are 38 and making your Vienna Philharmonic debut with Mahler Nine — what are you going to do when you are 70? "The same thing," Rattle smiled, "only better." We should be so lucky. One only hopes that the Philadelphia Orchestra, where he takes it later this week, is up to the job. If it is, then New York's Carnegie Hall may get a performance next Tuesday that its rude audience doesn't deserve.

Rattle returns to Vienna in February with the OAE and visits three times in May with the CBSO. Next December, he returns to the Philharmonic for Mahler's Seventh Symphony, a piece he has virtually privatised. Birmingham should hear it the following spring. —For British music-lovers, the next acquaintance with the Vienna Philharmonic will be on television, in the time-honoured New Year's Day concert, conducted this year by Lorin Maazel. Oh dear.

The history of music from A to Zappa

Frank Zappa is dead, but his influence lives. David Toop looks back more than 25 years to the first time he worshipped the feats of rock's greatest iconoclast

Frank Zappa coined a useful phrase to describe the means by which the past is rewritten to suit the entertainment industry's packaging strategies. "The Time-Warner view of history," he called it, and no description is more apt in underlining the discrepancy between the 1960s as they are replayed — sitters, kaffians and love beads — and the complicated reality.

I believe it was early 1968 when Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention performed in London for the first time, at the Albert Hall. I sat on one of those onstage seats, slightly behind the band and to the right-hand side, and so felt the detachment of an official observer or some sort of minor deity, sent to record and report back on the latest shenanigans on earth.

If you were time-transported back to this curious occasion you would almost certainly feel as unprepared as we did. There was no band like it. Sprawled across a stage cluttered with peculiar electronic keyboards, classical percussion, enough reeds and woodwinds for the Count Basie band and a few comfortably familiar electric guitars, the musicians lacked that fresh-faced look of young boys who had recently discovered drugs and grown their hair long.

These were seasoned veterans, though veterans of which campaign and seasoned in what substance most of us were too inexperienced to guess. A few copies of *Freak Out!* and *Absolutely Free* had circulated in my school and so we knew that the songs would be sardonic, silly and sinister. We also expected the music to sound like teenage pop from the 1950s, but different.

Different fails to capture it, somehow. What Zappa was achieving in that period was a unique synthesis of experimental composing and free jazz with Los Angeles doo-wop and rock 'n' roll. He loved all of these musics with a passion and could reproduce them with fiendish skill. But the doo-wop, one sensed, was his true love. He could turn the ice-cream-cone chords

inside out, load self-pitying, lovestruck lyrics with venom, and satirise the vocals, the clothes, the very smell of naive teen-spirit. But by the time he had finished, songs such as "How Could I Be Such A Fool" still sounded as heartbreaking as anything ever recorded in a garage in east LA.

Doo-wop was not a popular or even familiar form of music in England during the late 1960s. For some reason, Zappa always found London a troublesome stopover. But, at this early stage, the experience of seeing Jimmy Carl Black, Roy Estrada, Don Preston and all the other Mothers negotiate their circus of the bizarre overwhelmed most objections. Besides, this was an audience primed with a message from god, Eric Clapton himself had sent advance warning from America that the Mothers of Invention were the hippest, most challenging item in the whole hippy programme.

Of course, music was boiling over with experiment in 1968, but not in the context of blithe acceptance suggested by *South Bank Show*-style documentaries. Experiment could still provoke incomprehension, hostility or even violence. One of Zappa's many contributions to the musical vocabulary of the past 25 years was a genius for framing his more arcane compositional ideas in song structures that were simultaneously ridiculous and ravishingly beautiful.

To play a lengthy free-jazz interlude on solo saxophone was inviting trouble, but this is what Euclid James Sherwood, better known as Motorhead, got away with. Perhaps this invited a later intervention from a member of the Albert Hall audience, who climbed on stage with a trumpet.

Despite having come prepared with an instrument, the interloper seemed to be at a loss, musically speaking. This awkward moment was transformed by Zappa into a triumph of absurdity over adversity. Later that year he included a recording of the incident on *Uncle Meat*, the double album soundtrack for a film which was never



The Groucho Marx of rock, both in looks and in his sardonically humorous view of life — but a much better guitarist — Frank Zappa stands outside the Albert Hall in 1971

completed. "Ah, Zappa said, 'I know the perfect thing to accompany this man's trumpet. None other than the mighty and majestic Albert Hall pipe organ.'

"You understand you won't be able to hear the organ once we turn the amplifiers up," he added as Don Preston scaled the back wall of the concert hall and clambered into

the organ loft. For a rock band to have been given a key to the organ loft would have been unthinkable in those days. The version of "Louie Louie" which ensued, albeit cut off after a few bars on *Uncle Meat*, can be considered definitive.

Zappa learnt about noise by listening to Edgard Varèse and Johnny "Guitar" Watson, which

explains his capacity to embrace the history of 20th-century music in an evening of amplified guitar music. Some of his most intractable problems arose when he tried to convince others that the worlds of so-called high and low art were intimately related and equally pleasurable.

One sour moment of the Albert

Hall concert sticks in my mind. Three instrumentalists from a London orchestra were invited on stage to interpret some of Zappa's more academic writing. Clearly convinced that the composer was a buffoon, they dressed and acted accordingly. Their determination to play the fool, rather than the music, encapsulated the almost impossible

task Zappa had set himself. Composing music of extreme textural and referential density while posing for photographs wearing a dress or sitting on the lavatory was not the easiest route to bourgeois acceptance. But for Frank Zappa, the easy route was never an option.

Obituary, page 21

CLASSICAL CONCERTS: The genius of Berlioz is well-served by two great conductors

Troy weighed in pure gold



Davis: powerful vision

IN ITS heroic, epic telling of a heroic, epic tale (Shakespeareanised Virgil, he called it), Berlioz's *Les Troyens* does not leave much room for subtle understatement. Small wonder that the Paris Opera took against it and that productions ever since have been rare, or that the tradition has grown up of performing it in two parts, one at Troy, the other at Carthage, separated by a night's sleep, which is how it was done in this concert performance at the weekend.

There is an awful lot to digest during its four-hour course, but having experienced the meal one would not have missed a single mouthful. The fact is that Berlioz does not inflate simply for effect. He means every flamboyant, extravagant gesture. The drama, concerned though it is with the fate of whole nations as well as the passions and self-sacrifice of individuals, is real to him; his aim, in a work which perhaps represents the culmination of the Lullian tragicomic tradition, is to make it equally real to us.

This magnificent performance certainly did that. Colin Davis's exultation in its grand moments, his delight in its beautiful ones — such as the imaginative dance tableau of Act V — and, most crucially, his powerful, remarkably cogent view of the whole epic, would surely convince the most hardy doubters that the work is masterpiece rather than monster.

Although, in its current state, the London Symphony Orchestra is hardly in need of rescue, with Davis as their

The Trojans Barbican

doughty Aeneas from September 1995 they need fear nothing about their own destiny. Under his direction the brass rang with rich resonance, the strings were confident and secure, and the woodwind exquisitely, vividly coloured. Let us not forget, either, the contributions of the harps — six of them for part one — or the percussion, used by Berlioz, the master orchestrator, with unfailing imagination, and woven into this huge fabric by Davis.

Hearing Berlioz's scoring played with such clarity and unencumbered by the muffling effect of the pit was one major advantage of this concert performance above the staged production that no doubt Davis would have preferred. Another was that the London Symphony Chorus, in glorious voice, was unencumbered by the need to clamber and pose around a stage, and instead played the crowd scenes with a power, energy, confidence and accuracy one would not think possible from amateurs. Stephen Westrop, the chorus master, must have worked them extremely hard, but how thrillingly they responded.

Still, even given such a sound foundation, any reading stands or falls on the singers. This cast was marvellous, an alchemical mixture of huge-voiced tragic heroes and subtler character-players. In part one, Jane Henschel as the all-seeing

Cassandra delivered a strong, firm and rich line at least matched by the formidable, even more ardent Markella Hatziano as Dido — she occasionally pushed slightly too hard — in part two. Carlos Alvarez as Corebus, Cassandra's fiancé, sometimes strained at the top of his register, making a harder noise than is perhaps ideal, but he was fiery and heroic nevertheless.

Vladimir Bogachov, as Aeneas, the one major character who strides the whole opera (discounting ghosts), warmed to his role as the work progressed, audibly relaxing his huge though still young tenor in part two. Outstanding contributions in smaller roles came from the ever-reliable Gwynne Howell as Priam, Brian Bannatyne-Scott as Hector's Ghost, and Penelope Walker as Hecuba in part one. From Maria Popescu as Anna and Robert Lloyd as Nabal in part two, and from Alan Ewing as Pantheus, Fiona Jones as Ascanius and Penelope Walker as Hecuba in both parts, while Gregory Cross as Iopas and Ian Bostridge as Hylas touchingly delivered their set pieces — the nostalgic songs "O blond Cérés" and "Vallons sonore" — in Acts IV and V respectively. I particularly liked Bostridge's easy, smooth stylisation.

There is a further performance tomorrow and Thursday and, for those willing to immerse themselves in the whole wonderful epic on one day, another next Sunday afternoon and evening.

STEPHEN PETTITT

OPERA

Scarpia and scarier

Tosca
Covent Garden



Anna Tomowa-Sintow and Sergei Leiferkus in *Tosca*

THE Royal Opera's production of *Tosca* seems as old as time itself. Yet in this revival it has never seemed in fresher, ruder health. John Cox is back to direct it, and the first act alone is so pulsating with human detail, so observant of every passing idiosyncrasy, that one quite forgets what is about to happen. When Scarpia enters, the world seems to stand still.

And this is quite some Scarpia. Sergei Leiferkus, the Russian baritone, is singing the role for the first time at Covent Garden, and is in total command, not only of Rome, but of every breath he takes. This is a man of iron, the voice whetted to a glinting, cutting edge, yet moving with the ease and inexorability of a dark slick of oil. The effect of his natural splendour leaves a sinister silver trail after each line: the slightest movement of a gloved hand, the small semicircle described with the wine glass, capture the innermost being of the man.

Everything the eye sees is translated and transcended by Edward Downes's equally observant conducting. The second act, in particular, is experienced as a single continuum of movement and texture, a three-way drama between orchestra, Scarpia and Tosca. Anna Tomowa-Sintow is also singing her role for the first time in this house. With the memory of her statuesque Empress in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* a year ago still fresh in the memory, Tosca does seem to have come just a little late. But what the portrayal lacks in a sense of vulnerability and a bright, febrile vocal timbre, it more than gains in dignity, emotional breadth and depth.

Her partnership with Leiferkus is larger than life: she is less well-matched with her Cavaradossi, Alberto Pardo. Those who saw him in the role last June will remember the excitement of the sheer

raw strength of his tenor. In six months, though, it has not become more colourful or any more subtle in pianissimo. This time he seems to have brought several cheerleaders with him: spontaneous Latin "Bravos!" after each aria were met with more than one surly English reprimand.

There was less vocal praise for the fine cameo casting in

this revival. Eric Garrett's Sacristan and Francis Edgerton's Spoletta — a creeping shadow of a police agent whose huge expressive hands were skillfully caught by John B. Read's finely orchestrated lighting — made a considerable contribution to the pleasure of the evening.

HILARY FINCH

How to make a feast out of leftovers

FAMOUS old American orchestras don't usually take many risks when they tour Europe. They don't need to. The Boston Symphony Orchestra is very old and very famous. It is also, on the evidence of Saturday's glorious sounds, in superlative shape under its longstanding music director, Seiji Ozawa.

So its bold choice of programme for London was startling. An enthralling performance of Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique* was followed by a rare airing of the work's sequel, *Lello, or The Return to Life*.

The latter has unique and — let us be honest, fellow Berlioz fans — somewhat preposterous requirements: an actor/narrator by tenor and piano: dramatic lighting: large choral and orchestral forces. It also needs a fair amount of audience indulgence for its story: a tormented composer raving about his twin obsessions, which are (no prizes for guessing) exactly the same as Berlioz's — Shakespeare and a Shakespearean actress. It rounds off the story of the *Symphonie fantastique*, but in no sense matches that work's quality.

In fact, you hope it will turn out to be a spoof, so hammy is the narration: "And that melody... oh, oh, that melody... and the bells, running infernally through my brain..." But no, it's meant to be serious. The actor Lambert Wilson delivered it with many a despairing clutch at fevered brow:

Boston
SO / Ozawa
Festival Hall

Sir Henry Irving would have been proud of him.

Luckily the music, all-musical, though cobbled together by Berlioz from his old manuscripts, is more estimable. There is a rumbustious brigands' song, stirring led here by the baritone François Le Roux; a lovely "Song of Bliss" (Vinson Cole delivered the stratospheric tenor part with superb sweetness); and a final, extensive choral fantasy on ideas from *The Tempest* in which the Brighton Festival Chorus displayed spirit and stylishness.

There is no doubt, however, that it was Ozawa's magnificent interpretation of the *Symphonie fantastique* — and the Boston players' elegant yet passionate response

— that will be the abiding memory of most in the packed audience. This was not a performance that went hell-for-leather to exaggerate the grotesqueries of the "March to the Scaffold" or the "Witches' Sabbath", although both were rhythmically taut and full of imaginative timbres.

Rather, the emphasis was on warmth, a gorgeous blend (the brass, spitting and ferocious where necessary, melded elsewhere like flutes into the texture) and a measured, aristocratic sense of direction. Ozawa's 20-year tenure in Boston continues to confound those who believe that orchestras grow slack and unresponsive under conductors they know too well.

RICHARD MORRISON



Ozawa: at one with his band

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LAW

● INTO AFRICA 37
● LAW REPORT 38

The recent trials of Roger Levitt and the Bulger killers have emphasised the need for the public to see justice being done



Mr Justice Laws, left, who sentenced Roger Levitt (pictured with his wife Diana). Serious fraud cases often pose acute problems in the management of counsel and juries

Judges miss the mark

Public disquiet over plea bargaining, and sentences regarded by many as derisory, are casting doubt on the law's integrity, says David Cocks QC

WITNESS: "Every Saturday I'd leave the house in the morning and go to a boot fair with my Nan." JUDGE (helpfully): "Does your grandmother wear an awful lot of boots?"

To try serious crime of any sort requires a combination of intellect and street wisdom. The myth that once you have placed your bottom on the consolidated fund you can and should try anything is, however, nowhere being more vividly exposed than in the trial of serious fraud. Many massive cases, often meticulously prepared and well presented, are ending up in front of judges manifestly lacking the experience of the criminal courts to deal with them.

Those of us at the Bar who do this work could cite innumerable examples. I remember some time ago trying to explain to a mystified police officer why an attempted fraud of £32m on a city bank had been thrown out at half time. The ruling was pure gobbledegook and was only explicable either on the char-

table basis that the judge had not understood the case or, alternatively, that his heart had failed him at the prospect of summing it up.

On the other side of the fence I have had to sympathise with my lay client in a case in which the conduct of the trial was a public travesty in terms of lack of understanding, unfairness and misstatement of the evidence. In financial terms it was like a joint venture in which both sides had invested large sums of money and then had thrust upon them a chairman who had no experience of the field, lacked the intelligence to understand simple propositions, and was too arrogant to apply his brains to do so even if he had any.

There are two aspects to the problem. First, the trial of sophisticated crime has become much more complex, legally and factually. Its sentencing has also become more difficult. Gone are the days

when Lord Devlin, fresh from the commercial court, could find out the tariff for a certain offence by leaning over and asking his experienced clerk of assize. Criminal law and procedure are no longer things that can be mugged up overnight. The second is that the Lord Chancellor's Department has refused steadfastly to come to grips with the fact that some judges are simply not capable of trying serious fraud cases and ought not to be allowed anywhere near one. They have designated certain fraud centres but failed to designate any fraud judges. Serious fraud is intellectually and physically demanding: it is unlike most other forms of litigation and very often poses acute problems in the management of

material, counsel, and juries. Some judges on the circuit bench are not up to trying it. On the other hand, some of these are greatly superior to what the High Court has to offer. Long and complicated criminal trials will not go away. Fraud is merely one example.

Some trials have an irreducible minimum content that is bound to be lengthy. Against a background of long and complex cases such as Blue Arrow, some judges are tending to cut out essential evidence from long cases on what appears to be an increasingly arbitrary basis. Recent fraud cases have given rise to grave disquiet from two points of view. First there has been concern about plea bargaining. Second, there

has been widespread criticism of the sentences imposed as derisory and socially divisive. This leads to two thoughts.

First, is it right that indications on sentence should be sought from a judge in chambers even if the Turner guidelines are observed? If the judge's reasoning is sound why should it not be exposed to the light of day and why should the defendant not hear it too?

Public mistrust of "carve ups" in the judge's room still abound. Some parts of the criminal trial, including sentencing, may sometimes have to be dealt with in the judge's room on the grounds of confidentiality, but why should not the public hear the process of judicial indication in the normal case?

Second, has the time come when the prosecution ought to play a greater part in the sentencing process? For instance, Roger Levitt, the failed financial adviser sentenced to

180 days' community service, admitted by his plea not merely "lying to Fimbra", the financial regulator, but sending them false accounts which turned a £12m loss into a £16m profit, forging fee notes and invoices to invent a mythical income for his company of £21m, and forging a vital company minute.

It could have been argued forcefully that forgery of that nature directed at the government agency set up to protect investors merited an immediate prison sentence of two to three years. Should the trial judge and the public not have been treated to an informed debate on the topic?

Crime is too serious a business to be left any longer to the gifted amateur. It is time for another Judiciary Act that would reorganise the High Court into effective specialist divisions. In terms of public perception, criminal law and administrative law are two of the most important areas. It is time we had at least this — a Crown Office list and a Criminal list manned by specialists.

● The author was prosecuting counsel in the Levitt trial.

The value of a criminal trial

Every few years there is a criminal trial which becomes a powerful focus for general public concerns and fears. For many people, the trial and punishment of the two 11-year-old boys who murdered James Bulger, aged two, has symbolised the troubled spirit of our society as accurately as did, in their day, the trials of the Kray twins and the Yorkshire Ripper.

The James Bulger trial at Preston crown court presented the British legal system at its best. The police performed their duties of detecting and interviewing the culprits with skill and integrity. The prosecutor, Richard Henriques QC, presented the case for the Crown with impeccable fairness, but in devastating detail. The defence counsel carried out their obligation to put the case for their clients, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, as best they could. Mr Justice Morland was sensitive to the interests of all those involved. The jury reached the right conclusion.

Yet concerns have been expressed that a criminal trial is an inappropriate means for assessing the actions of two boys who were aged ten at the time the offences were committed. The argument was presented at its crudest in an editorial published in *The Observer* on Sunday November 28: "There should never have been a trial at all. Instead a tribunal should have heard the evidence and the opinion of experts behind closed doors, and a decision should then have been made as to what should happen to the boys."

A more sophisticated version of a similar point of view was argued by Sir Louis Blom-Cooper QC in an article in *The Independent* on Sunday, also on November 28. He suggested that finding out what happened on the day of the murder, and what led up to it, "would have been better achieved by a public inquiry, without the grinding mill of the criminal process". He pointed out that the age of criminal responsibility (ten) is lower in England than it is in most Continental legal systems.

These arguments against a criminal trial are fundamentally misconceived. The evidence adduced before the Preston crown court established that the defendants understood that their actions were wrong. A criminal trial served very valuable public functions which were not confined, as *The Observer* tendentiously suggested, to "the understandable desire of the Bulger family for revenge".

The trial enabled the public to learn precisely what happened. It assisted public discussion of what lessons

are to be learnt. That "experts" (who are they and what is their expertise?) could be relied on in some secret committee to decide the responsibility of each of the 11-year-old boys for the killing of James Bulger, and for how long those boys should be detained, is profoundly unfair to all concerned. It is also impossible to understand how such a process could command public confidence or assuage public concerns.

A public inquiry can provide a very effective means for identifying the truth, as Lord Justice Scott's continuing inquiry into the export of defence equipment to Iraq is currently demonstrating. To the annoyance of many civil servants, but the solemnity and the formality of a criminal trial themselves make a significant and unique contribution to the assertion and maintenance of basic values in our society. In a manner that an official report based on the judgment of social workers could not.

A fundamental value asserted by a criminal trial is that those who kill in such circumstances should be held personally accountable for their actions.

The process of a formal trial may well have some deterrent effect on other children, and their parents. And, perhaps most important of all, a trial assists the cathartic process of identifying, explaining and resolving evil.

"If the Sabbath peace and quiet of any neighbourhood is offended by loud memories, that will be the lawyers warming up for a lot of hollering Monday," as Damon Runyon described the build-up to a murder trial in his epic journalism from American courtrooms in the 1920s.

Despite the well-publicised miscarriages of justice perpetrated by the legal system over the past 20 years, and despite all of the public abuse for lawyers for their alleged arrogance, ignorance and high fees, the public retains a touching faith in the value of the criminal trial as the means by which responsibility for serious crime is to be considered and punished.

The onerous duty of the criminal justice system — fulfilled in the James Bulger case — is to prove worthy of that faith in circumstances when people are searching for answers to profoundly troubling questions.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL
DAVID
PANICK QC

Bristol fashion

A NEW mercantile court is being set up in Bristol by its own specialist circuit judge, Judge Jack QC. The court, to be formally opened next month, is the latest in a regional network being created to avoid the costs and inconvenience of litigants having to travel to the commercial court in London. Already mercantile courts have been set up in Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham. They take a broad range, covering contractual disputes about sale of goods, commercial hire purchase, agency, banking, guarantee, carriage of goods or insurance.

Flood warning

THE NEW "no win, no fee" basis of charging by solicitors for personal injury and European Court of Human Rights cases which will come in next year was extended to insolvency cases after lobbying by insolvency practitioners. But they now fear they are getting more than they bargained for.

The draft order published by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, does what the lobbyists ask for and legitimises the use of contingency fees by solicitors acting for insolvency practitioners. But it goes further and says that solicitors can act for creditors on this basis, too.

The extended proposal has provoked dismay among liquidators who anticipate a flood of writs by aggrieved creditors who have no real case, but nothing to lose by having a go. Experts of the top accountancy firms argue that the cost of liquidations is already high enough without the addition of ill-founded law suits by creditors. They also fear "ambulance chasing" tactics by solicitors eager to cash in on the relaxation in the rules.

No waiting

IF YOU are planning a trip to Seattle, don't hang around too long on the sidewalk. New Seattle ordinances ban sitting

or lying down on city centre sidewalks. According to the *Seattle Times*, lawyers from the Civil Liberties Union of Washington and Evergreen Legal Services have brought a class action on behalf of seven



Seattle: new street law

homeless people contending that the new laws breach their right to equal protection under the law. The lawyers argue that while their clients would be moved on, customers of pavement cafes would be left undisturbed.

INNS AND OUTS

Narrow verdict

THE HIGH Court last week rejected an application for judicial review of the Department of Transport's decision to widen the M25 — in places to 14 lanes.

Mr Justice Macpherson ruled that the application by Surrey County Council was not "truly arguable". The council has sought to say that the decision failed to have proper regard for European law, the Highways Act 1980 and the department's own design manual and that it prevented an assessment of the environmental impact of the scheme.

Hot topic

LAST week's Legal Aid Board/Law Society conference on franchising was unexpectedly heated. The topic, how firms can meet the requirement to have someone qualified to recognise the need for welfare benefit advice, seems pretty dull. But the prototype

compulsory course, designed to train the lawyers, is proving controversial. The experts, including the Citizens' Advice Bureau, are worried that it is inadequate and that a little knowledge in the hands of the lawyers will prove a dangerous thing.

Bar brawl

THE South African Bar's own special apartheid — restrictive rights of audience in the higher courts — is under

review by the government. A commission investigating the abolition of the restriction found itself plucky in the middle of a heated debate between the Black Lawyers' Association and the Bar.

In a country where 85 per cent of the population is black but only 8 per cent of the Bar is black, fusion, says the BLA, is the only way to improve access to the legal system and get blacks on to the bench.

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For more information and an application form write to CPS Recruitment Branch, Headquarters, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7EX, or telephone 071-273 8310 (answering machine operates out of office hours). Please quote Reference No. CPS/93/3T.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS 5/1/94.

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The Firm's commercial litigators service its technology clients with proven success in IT, consumer electronics and telecoms. We seek a partner or partner designate with complementary (but not necessarily hi-tech) skills or specialities to take a significant role in raising the profile of, and further expanding, the Firm's specialist commercial litigation team.

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Bird & Bird already acts for a number of the world's leading banks. Raising the finance for, and taking security over, receivables from an international array of telecommunications projects raises varied, complex, and at times unique, issues of banking law. The Firm also advises on EDI and the legal implications of new technology for banks. The lawyer sought will be able to help develop the Firm's practice in both areas and will have a minimum of seven years' experience.

If you are attracted by the prospect of working in a forward-thinking, collegiate Firm, where excellence is the guiding principle and you feel you can see a way of blending your current skills and practice with those of Bird & Bird to mutual advantage, please contact:

Jonathan Macrae at Zarak Macrae Brenner on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends). Initial discussions can be held on an entirely confidential basis and at a neutral venue if preferred. Alternatively, write to ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

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This assignment is being exclusively handled by Michael Page. Interested candidates should forward their curriculum vitae (including details of current salary and benefits package) to Susanne Vahl at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5PL. (Fax 071 831 6662) or phone her on 071 831 2000.

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Please write with career details marked 'Strictly Private and Confidential' to: A.L.Banes Esq, Messrs. Howard Kennedy, 19 Cavendish Square, London W1A 2AW
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The appointment would initially be made on the basis of a short-term contract (with the possibility of extension). Salary will be negotiable according to experience; fringe benefits are also available.

CVs should be sent to:

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CITY OF LONDON

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LONDON

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City firm renowned for its strength in IP and specialist areas seeks partner/partner designate to spearhead IP practice. Needs to have experience of contentious and non-contentious work. Firm already acts for substantial portfolio of household name clients. Ability to cross-sell expertise and develop new work is a pre-requisite. An immediate following is not. Firm has an excellent track record of integration at senior level. (Ref. 2743)

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For further information in complete confidence, please contact Lisa Hicks, Jonathan Macrae or Jonathan Brenner (all qualified lawyers) on 071-377 0510 (071-733 1815 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174.

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Successful, relatively small London firm with clients including major corporations, computer manufacturers and television companies seeks (with full backing of existing partners) lawyer with graphics and management skills to develop full potential of young corporate team. Work ranges from branding and rights issues to more general commercial advice. Successful applicant will already be established as a partner elsewhere. (Ref. 1382)

COMPANY INFORMATION / COMPETITIVE

Leading City firm seeks solicitor with minimum 3 years' post qualification experience in company law (and in particular company information team). Heavy involvement in drafting precedents, newsletters and marketing material. Will suit technically excellent lawyer with good interpersonal skills. Computer literacy an advantage but not essential. Full time appointment. (Ref. 2710)

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Progressive medium sized City firm seeks City trained litigator with interest in employment law. Ideal level is 1-3 years qualified. Will handle broad range of commercial disputes and be first point of contact on employment/immigration matters. Must have good academic background, well developed interpersonal skills and ability to integrate quickly into a cohesive, client led team. Excellent City salary package and prospects. (Ref. 2511)

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مكتبة من الأصل



A worker at a uranium and gold mine in South Africa. The country's vast natural resources should make it increasingly attractive to overseas investors

A new race for Africa

Business communities worldwide were put under starter's orders last week when Washington signalled its support for investment by American corporations in South Africa. America's leaders decided to allow the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a government agency, to offer financial assistance programmes to businesses seeking opportunities in South Africa.

Not until next April's elections, however, will the "race for Africa" begin in earnest. Meanwhile, corporate lawyers from Europe, America and the Far East will trawl the republic's commercial centres to establish contacts and credentials for a possible boom in business.

What could thwart everyone's plans, of course, is the security situation. "Don't underestimate the ability of the far right of both black and white to destabilise the country," says John Herholdt, a London-based partner of Shepherson & Wylie, a South African firm that, with its associate firms, employs 200 lawyers in the main business centres. If some kind of stability can be achieved, Mr Herholdt is confident that the country could do well. It has, he believes, enormous natural resources, a sophisticated in-

Law firms are jetting off to South Africa in the hope of a business boom after next April's elections. Edward Fennell reports

rastructure, good manufacturing potential and is an ideal launch pad for the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. This view is confirmed by Richard Stephens, of the London firm Jaques & Lewis, who is meeting clients in South Africa this week.

The last couple of years since the lifting of sanctions have seen the route to South Africa become a well trodden path for lawyers worldwide," says Mr Stephens, whose own firm has been doing business connected with South Africa for years.

The South African legal profession is, run on English lines and some of the country's larger firms have plenty of overseas experience. The smaller firms are now trying to catch up. Mackrell International, a London-based international law group run by the Covent Garden firm Mackrell Turner Garrett, has recently admitted two South African members (Goodriches, in Durban, and Ramsay, Webber & Co, in Johannesburg) who persuaded the group to

hold its world conference in the country next March. "Some doubts were expressed about safety," says John Cabot, a partner with Mackrell Turner Garrett. "But having seen a presentation about what the country has to offer the group was persuaded to go there. Special interest is expected from the group's Far Eastern members."

Picking winners from among the country's law firms is not, however, easy. Experience gained in Zimbabwe suggests that once a new regime takes power, the law firms that do best are those which are politically correct — in other words, mixed ethnically, and with the right political connections.

It is this consideration that has been influencing Lester Aldridge, a Bournemouth firm trying to develop a niche practice in South African clients. Dorset in Durban may be a long way but Robert Lowe, the managing partner, thinks that his firm is well placed to

pick up business. He is of South African origin and believes that, during this difficult period of transition, South African clients will value the understanding offered by a fellow countryman.

Even more important, however, is the consideration that, because of the poor exchange rate for the rand, South Africans can be expected to shy away from City firms on grounds of cost. "South Africa is going to have to go global to meet the expectations of its people," says Mr Lowe. "And England is the obvious place from which they will wish to start."

Mr Lowe, having been in South Africa in September for the conference of the South African Law Society, has been invited back to appear on South African television after Christmas to discuss his perceptions of the future economic and business prospects for the country.

He will be able to report that there is real interest in Britain in reinvesting in South Africa. A seminar that Mr Lowe is organising in Bournemouth about doing business in South Africa has attracted more than 100 delegates. All that is needed now is confidence. And that lies entirely in the hands of the South African people themselves.

Why a judge needs a right-hand man

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has just floated the idea that legal staff be provided to help judges to research and investigate the law.

In the third of his current series of Hamlyn lectures, Lord Mackay said that in cases where litigants in person were involved, judges might be placed under "a particular burden" and that perhaps the state should provide help. Such cases involve judges in extra work as they go out of their way to help litigants on points of law.

It is a peculiarly British tradition that judges do their judging single-handed and unaided. In America, the idea that judges should have professional assistance when handling a particularly weighty trial is commonplace, but judges here have to manage their cases with the help just of a clerk: the Lord Chief Justice only recently secured a civil servant to help in his private office.

But the recent mammoth Sellafield trial, in which families unsuccessfully sought to sue British Nuclear Fuels, alleging a link between cancers among workers and exposure to radiation, broke new ground with the appointment of the first ever judicial assistant to aid in the management of a civil trial.

The trial itself, presided over by Mr Justice French, was long and complex. It lasted 90 days and involved more than 30 expert witnesses, in the fields of physics, epidemiology and genetics. The accompanying documentation filled more than 200 files.

Judicial assistants have been used previously but only in large and complex criminal cases involving prosecution authorities such as the Serious Fraud Office and the Inland Revenue.

What do they do? The duties of a judicial assistant are wide and vary from case to case. Initially he or she helps the judge with the organisation as well as the preparation of the papers — for example, by creating a glossary and a list of abbreviations.



Philip Nicol-Gent, above, explains his duties as a judicial assistant in the recent Sellafield case

The Sellafield case also involved the use of a computer operated by the judicial assistant. This contained the experts' reports, the daily transcript and submissions. Through the use of a text retrieval system, the judge had speedy access to the evidence and avoided employing the usual methods of annotation.

During the hearing itself, my duties — as the judicial assistant in that case — involved identifying with the parties the documents likely to be referred to and ensuring their speedy retrieval in court. It also included keeping indexes of those documents referred to in keeping track of those introduced late and an overall log of the days proceedings.

Out of court duties included the maintenance and management of the large computer database and the work of retrieving the evidence by searching the database.

Another less obvious area of work involves dealing with journalists through the Lord

Chancellor's Department press office.

In the Sellafield case, it was arranged for copies of the bulky judgment (which ran to five box files) to be placed in the Press Association's Fleet Street library for ease of access by reporters, and also for copies of a summary to be provided to the press.

This was a "first", mainly because the judgment was delivered on a Friday and access would otherwise have been difficult over the weekend. Arrangements were also made to allow the BBC and ITN to film in the judge's private office.

Judicial assistants are employees of the Lord Chancellor's Department and are therefore also able to deal with the necessary organisational requirements, such as arranging weekend access to set up the court, for the use of overhead projectors and computers.

The judicial assistant also provides a point of contact when the other arrangements that often accompany large trials need to be made. In the Sellafield case, this involved arranging for the taking of evidence at a special hearing by means of a satellite link with New York.

In the end, this unusual course was aborted shortly before it was due to begin when the evidence involved was agreed between the parties. The case was, however, the first trial in which the Legal Aid Board gave a certificate for the use of a video-conference link.

Judicial assistants provide significant help with the varied problems that often arise. In the future when trials are likely to last a long time, judicial assistants will probably be brought in soon after the case has been set down for hearing.

Their use would do much to ensure the smooth transaction from pleadings to advocacy through the chairing of an informal committee comprising representatives from the parties' solicitors.

● The author is a practising barrister.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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Hobbies and Interests
You have an opportunity at the end of your CV to state your hobbies and interests and give the reader a glimpse of your true personality. Is it an opportunity you should take? There are two views on this: 1) reveal yourself as you are, with all your eccentricities exposed; 2) tailor your interests to reveal only those which are commonly admired. The first course ensures that employers who react negatively to your personality will not interview you. Time is not wasted seeing people you would not wish to work for anyway. This course was more popular some years ago when vacancies were plentiful. Today, there is an understandable preference for the second course. Among the safer activities to mention are sports such as tennis, golf, and squash; they show a sociable, outgoing nature; cultural interests such as opera, theatre, and film; they indicate a lively mind; and niche interests such as wine tasting, classic cars, and antique watches; they suggest a healthy individuality. Interests which may alert employers to potential dangers are 1) political causes: they hint at a lack of dispassionate objectivity; 2) heavy commitments to community activities: they use up time and energy which would otherwise be available to your employer; and 3) lonely, esoteric interests, such as train-spotting: their isolated obsessional quality makes most employers (unless they're train-spotters themselves) feel distinctly wary. The reveal-all approach can be successful, however. One of our candidates, an enthusiast for English river birds, was offered a job after being interviewed by a fellow ornithologist and spending much of the interview discussing his field studies of the heron. *Michael Chambers*

For vacancies in INDUSTRY & BANKING ring Sonya Rayner.

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For an application form and job description please telephone 071-320 5936 (answer phone). Applications should be returned by 24th December 1993 to Barbara McKelvey, Personnel Manager, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. First interviews will be held during the week commencing 10th January 1994.

The Law Society is striving to be an equal opportunities employer, and welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of sex, race, colour, sexuality or disability.

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The successful candidate will have 5+ years experience, probably gained working within major industrial or construction organisations and will have extensive knowledge of joint venture arrangements, collaboration agreements and, ideally, some exposure to construction contracts and project finance. A willingness to integrate into the existing Legal Department, work closely with the Business Development Group and to quickly understand our client's core business is essential.

Candidates with proven track records, commercial acumen and excellent communication skills are invited to contact **MICHAEL SILVER**, in confidence, at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH - (071) 404 4646 (day) or (0372) 469430 (evening) Ref: 573/MS.

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Coates's hard sell works wonders for women's game



Johnson: supportive

Take a bow, Terry Coates. Coates is the man who took on one of the most difficult jobs in British sport, administering the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour, when it was offered in the spring, and this morning in London he will announce the results of his labours — more tournaments and more, different venues, increased prize money, better sponsors, wider exposure.

It was at best a difficult job, at worst an untenable one. All the male prejudices tend to come out when women's golf is discussed. The women's tour was boring, full of women who could not break 75. Furthermore, it was overshadowed by Nick Faldo, Severiano Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer and their like on the men's tour. The women were impossible to deal with and work for, being argumentative, disloyal and demanding. These were just the good comments. Coates would not have wanted to hear some of the bad ones.

There was more infighting going on in and around women's professional golf in Europe than in a rugby ruck. These past 15 years since the fledgling women's tour began, it has seen many tears and tantrums. Bosses have come and gone — two in the past two years. Coates, 63 tomorrow, could have begun the retirement to which he was entitled after working for British Airways and Hewlett Packard. He could have reduced his handicap of ten while dividing his time between the golf courses of Surrey, Florida and New Zealand.

But he was prepared to be persuaded to move up from his non-executive role to executive director when Andrea Doyle was fired in March. He gave up a room of his house in Banstead and turned it into an office. He liked the challenge presented to him. He appealed to the better players to help — and they responded. They had already shown their potential, defeating the United States in the second Solheim Cup at Dalmahoy in October 1992. This was against all odds and it should have been the start of something big.

But Doyle could not build on it. She was bossy and treated the women like children, arguing with them, dismissing them arrogantly, losing their respect. Coates has established a good rapport with the players. He could not have done it without the support of players such as Trish Johnson and Laura Davies. They play much of their golf in the United States yet were prepared to return to Europe for almost every tournament. Johnson was back and forth across the Atlantic at least once each month, Davies more often than that.

With Coates promoting the game, the leading players playing their hearts out in the United States and Europe, the selling of the tour was less difficult than many had thought. It was hard work, but at last Coates had a product worthy of selling. He has sold it to the industrial barons: Marks & Spencer, KLM. He has got the LPGA, the American equivalent, to accord the British Open the status of a major championship. He has got two events on to BBC television and a great many more on to satellite television.

He has done all this and more. It was suggested recently that in 1994 the tour would stage 17 tournaments and be worth £2 million, but such is the climate that Coates is confident of exceeding this. "At the start we thought Terry could do us a favour," Johnson said. "It turns out he has done us a huge favour." Coates says that women's sport is undervalued and not understood and, as a result, is not given credence. He wants to change this. He has made a good start in golf.



JOHN HOPKINS
Golf Commentary

Bentt looking for bout against Lewis in battle of "British" world champions Accent on money in world of boxing

BY SIMON BARNES

IT'S not just me, is it? I mean, the world really is going crazy, isn't it? Take Michael Bentt. You may not have heard of him, but apparently he is the heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

Well, I hear you say, that doesn't narrow the field a whole lot, now does it? I mean, my dear, who isn't? Most people above 14 stone are world heavyweight boxing champions these days.

You may be surprised to learn that only four men can possibly be world heavyweight boxing champion at any one time. And right now, there are actually only three world heavyweight boxing champions.

Michael Bentt is the world heavyweight boxing champion who tells us he is really English. Well, I hear you say, that doesn't narrow the field a whole lot either. Just about everywhere you go there are

here yesterday in his, er, home country to try to fix up a meeting with his, er, fellow Brit, Lewis.

Bentt's handlers are frightfully keen to put on a fight with Lewis at Millwall football club — so sorry, I mean, of course, the London Stadium. Date: March 19. ABC television has a window in the schedule then. Ambitious Millwall are frightfully keen to stage it — it'll be frightfully chilly, what, but stiff upper lips, chaps, we're all true Brits together. All that remains is for Lewis to say the word. The word, by the way, is "money".

People argue as to whether Lewis is Canadian or English, or even Jamaican. I saw him recently courted by the sycophants of the Oxford Union as he made a tour to improve his following in a country that is still rather surprised at finding a heavyweight champion thrust upon it. Wot, no Frank?

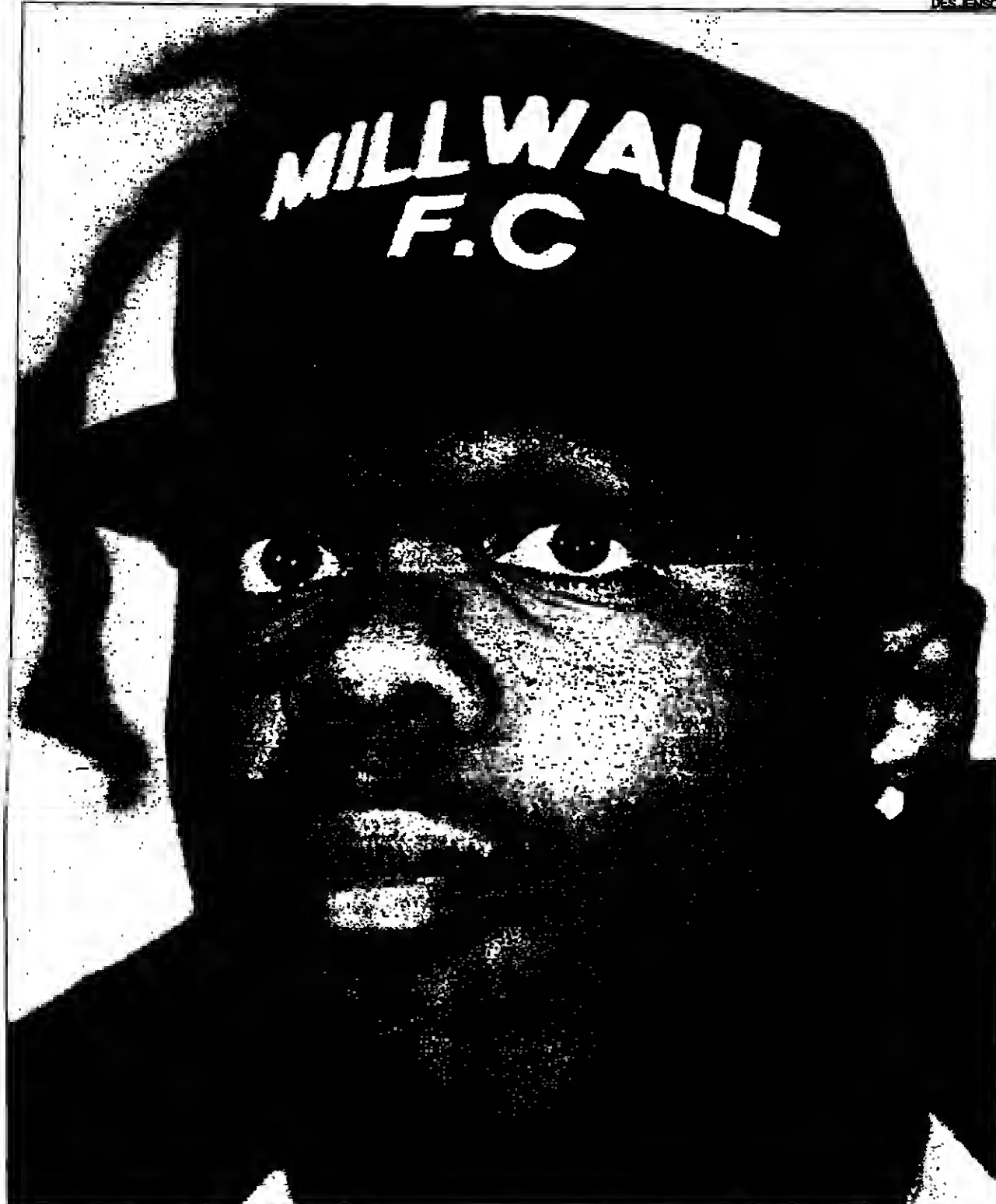
So now up pops another transatlantic Englishman, talking just as hard. Bentt was, I learn, born in Dulwich Hospital; he went to Goodrich Infants School, also in Dulwich, and then, when he was six, he went to Jamaica. He and his parents went to New York when he was 14.

He wanted to box in Seoul; he won the Jamaican Olympic trials, but was not permitted to compete unless he gave up his United States citizenship. He didn't. Later, he gave up boxing for 18 months, and then went back. He won his title by dubbing Tommy Morrison to the floor three times in the first 93 seconds of their contest. Morrison was one of those Great White Hopes, and nephew of John Wayne to boot, but that didn't help.

No doubt there will be plenty of discussion about how truly English Bentt is. Every bit as British as the United States dollar, anyway. Another question is, of course, what the hell does it matter?

It doesn't, of course. Walk to Millwall from New Cross station past a Nigerian food emporium, pubs full of pool tables and live bands, women shopping in Muslim veils. "I'm as British as Bruno or Lewis," Bentt said. "This is a rainbow title."

All frightfully true and right and proper. What is the point of jingoism, anyway? Well, it sells tickets, actually. Bruno is accepted as a proper Brit: he



The best of British: WBO heavyweight boxing champion Michael Bentt at Millwall's ground yesterday

'Michael Bentt's burst of true blue Englishness is not entirely unallied to the question of money'

world heavyweight boxing champions with transatlantic accents telling us they are really English.

Next thing, I suppose, we will be submerged under the tide of goalkeepers claiming to be Scottish.

Michael Bentt is the WBO champion, which makes him completely different from other world heavyweight boxing champions such as Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis. Lewis, by the way, is another who says he is really English.

In fact, Bentt and Lewis met when both were competing at the Pan American Games. Bentt was boxing for the United States and Lewis represented Canada.

What ho, my dear old thing. Bentt's burst of true blue Englishness is not entirely unallied to the question of money. Nor, of course, is anything else in the alleged sport of boxing. Bentt was

fills stadiums in Britain for that reason. The Olympic Games gives you all kinds of claptrap about international brotherhood that transcends nationhood — and then they line everybody up in national team uniforms and play national anthems every ten minutes.

The jet plane has changed notions of nationality. It is a waste of time considering what nationality Bentt and Lewis "really" are. They are really at least three each. If Kingston town were about to offer a sell-out stadium and facilities for ABC television, both Lewis and Bentt would be promoting themselves around Trenchtown instead of New Cross. And why not? Perhaps nationality is becoming an outmoded concept. But if so, everybody in the

business of sport will fight tooth and nail against such a process. Meanwhile, greetings to Bentt and Lewis both: stateless citizens of the 21st century. If they want to be British for a bit, that's fine by me. Pip-pip, chaps.

Lazio ready to send Gascoigne back to England



ROB HUGHES
Overseas Football

The price of genius sometimes wears a great deal thinner than the expanding waistlines of those who carry the gift. Paul Gascoigne and Diego Maradona, who boast two of the world's most publicised weight problems, are at personal crossroads once more.

Gascoigne's departure from Lazio in Rome gains credibility with every passing week-end of idleness from the Italian Serie A. Lazio's tolerance is understandably waning, and it would seem that the last hope of salvaging England's most creative player is to get him home by Christmas — away from the temptations that befell Maradona, away from the city and the league which seem beyond his ken.

Without telling Gascoigne, Lazio have endorsed, among other agents, Gino Santini, the restaurateur who pocketed £200,000 from Tottenham Hotspur for smoothing Gascoigne's passage to Italy 18 months ago. The word is that if Santini, or any other agent, can persuade Blackburn Rovers or Newcastle United to part with £3.5 million, then Lazio would consider the white-haired gentleman the closest thing this side of Christmas to Santa Claus.

With the FA Carling Premiership suffering a dearth of midfield playmakers, the prospect, remote as it is, is attractive. There is, as ever, cold business behind the proposed sale.

Lazio paid £5.5 million, but will shed the millions quicker than Gascoigne sheds pounds because all hope has gone that his presence will, as before, provide tens of thousands of Romans to buy season tickets.

They did that two summers ago expecting the emotional player who cried at the 1990 world cup. With that image blown, with Gascoigne unable to complete any of the meagre four games he has started this season, Lazio are looking for fresh blood. They already have Alen Boksic, of Croatia, and, like other Italian clubs, would not say "no" to buying Ryan Giggs.

Although Gascoigne could be returning to England, we may have seen the last of Maradona. His return to help Argentina qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States against Australia last month was almost a mirage. He played, he conjured a precious goal in Sydney, but, in the first game, he suffered a hamstring strain and in the second, at walking pace, he was jeered at times by the Buenos Aires crowd.

"I had thought I wanted to go to the finals again," Maradona said a week ago.

Now I really don't know whether I will be up to it. I am 33. First I had sciatica, then the hamstring problem."

Both of those are very likely a reaction to the impunity with which medical practitioners have wilfully injected Maradona in the back to help him compete through pain in his days at Barcelona and Napoli. Yet though he needs to get fit to play in the World Cup finals next year, he has now declared himself unfit even for the exhibition match between Argentina and Germany in Miami on December 15. This time, he is said to have a knee injury.

His problems are more than simply physical. A court in Italy last Friday began processing a second allegation against him — following a charge of possessing cocaine in 1991 — that Maradona and his former business agent, Guillermo Coppola, imported three kilos of cocaine to Italy from Argentina in September 1991.

These allegations came from Pietro Pugliese, his former chauffeur and bodyguard, who reiterated in court what he had previously told a newspaper — that he, in all innocence, delivered a package to Maradona wrapped in Argentine newspapers and was paid £12,500 for doing that.

Meanwhile, eschewing his own Argentine head of state and sending strange signals to America, where he supposedly might still play in a World Cup, Maradona has dedicated the No 10 shirt he wore against Australia to Fidel Castro, the communist leader of Cuba. He intends, he says, to visit Cuba this month, perhaps to start a Maradona school of football for orphans there.

The message to Gascoigne has to be "Come home, if anyone will buy you and if you have any innocence left."

We should remember the words of the late Joe Mercer, a wise and worldly manager of Manchester City: "Genius is great when it is on song. It is more than a nuisance when it goes bad, because it contaminates and destroys what is around it."

Wealthy players guzzle from the cup of avarice

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

FOR the past month, Michael Stich has been pursuing points and prestige, rising to No 2 in the world tennis rankings by winning the ATP world championship and leading Germany to the Davis Cup. Now, with 15 other competitors, he is searching unashamedly for hard cash.

Stich is the holder of the Grand Slam Cup, a tournament worth \$6 million but with no ethical value. Designed by the International Tennis Federation, it rewards excessively players who have collected vast sums of prize money during the year.

John McEnroe observed correctly, before the event was first held three years ago, that it was "obscene". He also warned that "we are in danger of becoming money whores". But his conscience did not stop him from volunteering to stand in line with 15 others.

Some qualifiers have preferred to take a higher moral stance. Boris Becker, like Mats Wilander, consistently refused to compete, but this year he has an apparently irresistible incentive. Axel Meyer-Wolden, his new manager, is the promoter of the knockout event.

Andrei Medvedev faces no such dilemma. He has chosen

to go on holiday with his girlfriend, Anke Huber, the German No 2. Nor has Jim Courier, who infamously read a book during changeovers at the ATP world championship in Frankfurt, succumbed to the financial temptations.

He intends instead to watch "those guys make all that money" on television at home in Florida. Stefan Edberg has agreed to take part but may not linger long. Last year he interrupted a skiing holiday long enough to come here and collect the tidy sum that was owed to him.

This year, outrageously, the bonuses have been increased. The winner of a grand slam event receives \$250,000 as he

walks through the door of the Olympiahalle here. Pete Sampras, as the holder of the Wimbledon and US titles, will today be \$300,000 richer even before he hits a ball in his match against Thomas Muster.

Should Sampras fulfil expectations and go through to the second round, he will earn another \$300,000. Should he win his next three matches and gain the ultimate prize of \$1,625,000, he will leave Munich with the largest purse offered to any sportsman outside boxing. He is said to be on the verge of signing a contract with Nike worth \$18 million over the next three years. His wealth, at the age of 21, will shortly be massive.

It can be no coincidence that the entrants in the Grand Slam Cup have not always been either as dedicated or as motivated as in the more competitive and meaningful tournaments. Effort has not always been in proportion to the money received. It could be argued that the winner next Sunday will not necessarily be the best player but the most avaricious.

DRAW: Grand Slam Cup: P. Sampras v T. Muster; M. Chang v V. Maric; S. Bruguera v K. Leschenko; P. Korda v A. Volkov; M. Stich v M. Wasth; S. Sinner v C. Pietrangeli; B. Becker v W. Ferreira; S. Edberg v T. Martin.



Stich: good month

Drugs debate casts shadow over event of excellence

BY CRAIG LORD

THERE was no escaping it. The burning question of the inaugural world short-course swimming championships in Palma, Majorca, was drugs. Media, coaches, competitors and, reluctantly, Fina, the world governing body, revisited the theme time and again as the Chinese women's team broke 11 world records and won ten of a possible 16 titles.

Not a press conference went by without questions on drugs. Nobody refused to comment and the debate was more open than before, even among Chinese officials keen to explain their success. Mustapha Larfaoui, the president of Fina, who believes swimming to be "a clean sport", asked the media to move on to other subjects, but he could not stem the tide.

Larfaoui pointed out that testing is rigorous and that four days of aggressive racing had "exceeded all expectations". Ironically, it was those who were the subject of so much drugs talk that spared the blushes of Fina, which had wondered whether this first event of its kind would be successful with the majority of Olympic champions staying away. China, though, was not alone in producing fine performances. Allison Wag-

ner and Angel Martino helped the United States to five titles by breaking world records every bit as impressive as the seven set by Dai Guohong and Le Jingyi while Australia finished third in the medals with four titles.

Britain can also be proud of fourth place in the medals, with three gold, two silver and three bronze. Before Palma, only David Wilkie had won a world title for Britain. Now, Karen Pickering, Nick Gillingham and Mark Foster stand alongside him. The British squad must now translate its winter efforts into long-course performances for its rise in world status to be confirmed, given that the quality of entry in some events in Palma lay in shallow waters.

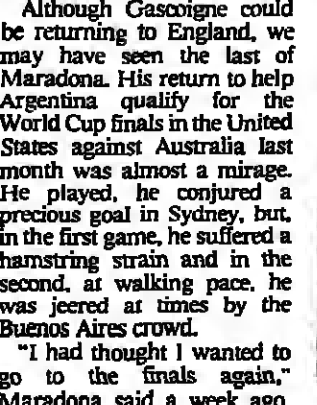
Chinese officials said the records were there to be broken, the swimming community never before having come together for a short-course battle of such intensity. Dai, 16, and Le, 18, accounted for five individual titles and seven world records, excluding relays. But when questions were asked of Fina about the duo's deep voices and hefty musculature, it was to the Americans, Wagner, 16, and Martino, 26, that it turned for its disclaimer.

"Look at the American women," one Fina official, as if settling the debate on drugs, said. When it was pointed out that Martino had already served a two-year suspension for a positive steroid test, the official merely shrugged and walked away.

The issue will not go away so easily. The World Coaches' Association has now called for in and out of competition Test Verification Certificates to be issued to all competitors. Without a valid TVC, swimmers will not be permitted to compete at leading championships.

offer a sell-out stadium and facilities for ABC television, both Lewis and Bentt would be promoting themselves around Trenchtown instead of New Cross. And why not? Perhaps nationality is becoming an outmoded concept. But if so, everybody in the

MEDALS TABLE			
China	8	5	1
United States	10	7	8
Australia	4	7	5
Spain	3	2	3
Brazil	2	1	1
Finland	1	3	2
Sweden	1	1	1
Croatia	1	1	0
France	1	0	0
Poland	1	0	0
Italy	1	0	0
Japan	0	1	0
Kazakhstan	0	1	0
New Zealand	0	1	0
Belgium	0	0	1
Russia	0	0	1
Two silvers and no bronze awarded for dead heat for second in men's 200m freestyle.			



Gascoigne: troubled

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44
DISSAVE
(a) Oddly enough this means exactly what it looks like, the opposite of to save. To dissave is the Mieserlich condition of spending more than one's income by drawing upon one's savings or capital, or borrowing, or feebly hoping that something will turn up. In a sense the ultimate object of all saving is dissaving, otherwise saving becomes a fetish or joju. Dissave is also an obsolete form of deceive.
DISSAVAGE
(a) To bring out of a savage condition, to tame, to civilise, dissavage. Chapman, *Caesar & Pompey*, 1631: "Those wilde kingdoms/ Which I dissavagd and made nobly civil."
PROLICIDE
(b) The killing of offspring, the crime of destroying children either before or soon after birth, from the Latin *proles* offspring + *-cide*. J. F. Keane, *Three Years of Wandering Life*, 1887: "The prolific mania which has possessed England during the last two decades."
ROGERIAN
(c) Some form of extravagant wig, presumably an eponym from the Christian name Roger of somebody lost in the dark backward and abyss of hairdressing. Hall, *Satires*, 1597: "The sportfull wind, to mocke the headless man./ Tosses apace his pitch'd Rogerian."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
White mates in three moves after 1 Rh6! Kxh2 Qh3+ and 3 Qh7.

Sangster calls for nominal Derby charge

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE cost of running a horse in the Derby at Epsom should be cut to a nominal £3 to help revive the world's most famous classic, Robert Sangster proposed yesterday. The leading British owner, who has enjoyed Epsom glory with The Minstrel and Golden Fleecer, admitted his idea was "revolutionary" but insisted it would be the best thing that could happen to the Derby.

Sangster's radical suggestion came as the charges for entering the 1995 Derby were announced by United Racecourses, who currently manage Epsom. The owner of a

DERBY FEES

Entry	Yearling	2nd entry
1995		
March 7	£750	£8,000
May 2	£2,750	£8,750
June 2	£1,750	£7,750
Total	£5,250	£24,500

yearling entering a horse tomorrow will pay a total of £5,500, in four stages, to have a runner in the race. An owner who waits until a horse is three years old faces a bill of £16,500 if the horse is to line up in June 1995.

Sangster, speaking at the Horserace Writers and Reporters Association's annual luncheon, where he received the Lord Derby Award as owner of the year, said owners were the investors in racing and he echoed the call by Gerald Leigh for a "drastic reduction" in entry fees.

"We contribute 35 per cent of entry fees to group one races," he said. "Imagine tennis players at Wimbledon or golfers in the Open being

charged anything at all: we would hear the whines from everywhere. My own figures for the season just ended show I received prize money of £617,000 and paid entry fees of £223,000. That is 35 per cent and I am supposed to have had a most successful year. I propose that we change the entry fee system and charge £1 to enter and £2 to run.

"You might ask what would occur in the Derby. I think this would be the best thing to happen to it. I would limit the field to 20 and make runners have a prize-money performance, so you would have a league of 30 to 40 horses. You would be able to see which were going to qualify for the Derby.

It would also cut out the supplementary fee, which next year will be in the region of £50,000. That is purely for the rich."

An innovation at this year's Derby awards saw recognition for the outstanding training performance achieved by Dermot Weld, whose Vintage Crop travelled from Ireland to win the Melbourne Cup. Weld was presented with the George Ennor Award, named after the outgoing president of the HWA, in recognition of his outstanding achievement.

Weld said: "To win the Melbourne Cup was a day in a lifetime. It was a win not just for the immediate connections but for European racing, and proved it is possible to bring a horse from Europe to the southern hemisphere to race successfully."

"Most people in Australia said it could not be done but it was achieved with the help of a lot of people, including Lord Huntingdon, the trainer of Drums Taps, who gave me so much encouragement."



Zeta's Lad, the winner of five of his six starts last season, is one of 14 acceptors for the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday

Egypt Mill Prince heads Cheltenham betting

By JULIAN MUSCAT

EGYPT Mill Prince is a best-priced 5-2 favourite with William Hill for the £50,000-added Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday. Jenny Pimm's gelding, second to Bradbury Star over course and distance in last month's Mackeson Gold Cup, was among 14 acceptors at yesterday's forfeit stage.

The participation of last year's winner, Another Coral, depends on a

workout tomorrow. He was found to have an irregular heartbeat, a condition also experienced by stablemate Waterloo Boy, when pulled up in the Newbury race won by Egypt Mill Prince.

David Nicholson, his trainer, said yesterday: "Another Coral will work on Wednesday and will be thoroughly checked afterwards. If he comes through all the tests he will run."

Nicholson is also likely to be represented by Second Scheudal but

riding plans for his pair may not be finalised for a few days. The eight-year-old fell at the tricky downhill fence, the third from home, in the Mackeson when on the heels of the leaders.

"He was going as well as anything else at the time and he came down because he jumped the fence too well," Nicholson argued. "The horse is in great form. Barring mishaps, he's got to be in the first three on Saturday."

Toby Balding's Flashthecash is set to face the starter on Saturday but stablemate Morley Street is pencilled in for the Tommy Whittle Chase at Haydock tomorrow.

CHELTENHAM ENTRIES: 1.20 BULA HURDLE (Grade 1) £21,500; 2m 10 (7 fms) day acceptance; 1.50 TRIPLEPRINT GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 1) £25,750; 2m 5 (11 fms) day acceptance; 2.00 ANOTHER CORAL, ARMAGNAC, BRANDSTON, EGYPT MILL PRINCE, FLASHTHECASH, FRAGrant DOWN, FRODO FINCHING, GENERAL POKING, MURRAY STREET, SECOND SCHEUDAL, STUMMING STUFF, THATCHER ROCK, YOUNG HUSKER, ZETA'S LAD.

Bears give thanks to defenders as revival continues

By ROBERT KIRLEY

DEFENDERS provided the highlights and the victories in the National Football League on Sunday by scoring eight touchdowns and setting up numerous other scores.

The Chicago Bears scored three defensive touchdowns in a 30-17 win over the Green Bay Packers, and the Houston Oilers controlled seven turnovers and scored once to beat the Atlanta Falcons 33-17.

Chicago and Houston have emerged from the murky depths and both have a chance to enter the play-offs as divisional winners.

"I enjoyed watching our defence play," Jim Harbaugh, the Chicago quarterback, said. "They deserve all the credit. There were some Pro Bowl performances out today."

Jeremy Lincoln, a Chicago cornerback, scored the first touchdown on an 88-yard interception return. Dante Jones picked up a fumble in the Green Bay quarterback, Brett Favre, and returned the ball 32 yards for a score and Mark Carrier ran in a touchdown on a 32-yard interception return.

Carrier's score wrapped up the Bears' fourth successive win, which they used to draw level with Green Bay and Detroit for first place in their division. The Bears, under the first-year coach, Dave Wannstedt, had been given up for dead earlier in the season.

The Oilers had also looked hopeless when they started with four defeats in five games. However, seven wins later, they remain a game in front in their division. On Sunday they intercepted the Atlanta quarterback, Bobby Hebert, six times.

Hebert was blasted by the defensive end, William Fuller, at the Atlanta seven-yard line late in the third quarter and the ball rolled into the end zone. Ray Childress collected it for a Houston touchdown.

It was the first appearance in Houston for Jerry Glanville, the Atlanta coach, since he and the Oilers parted company four years ago. "I enjoyed seeing some of the kids," Glanville said of his former club. "I haven't seen them in a couple of years, but you can't have seven turnovers and survive."

Lamar McGriggs returned an interception 65 yards for the Minnesota Vikings in a 13-0 shutout of the Detroit Lions. The Vikings intercepted five passes, three of them by Jack Del Rio, a linebacker.

The New York Giants forced three turnovers, earned a safety on a sack and blunted three scoring threats to beat the Miami Dolphins 19-14.

RESULTS: Week 14: Houston 33, Atlanta 17; Chicago 30, Green Bay 17; Indianapolis 6, NY Jets 6; LA Raiders 20, Buffalo 14; Minnesota 13, Detroit 0; Pittsburgh 17, New England 10; Cleveland 17, New Orleans 13; Washington 28, Tampa Bay 17; San Diego 13, Denver 10; Kansas City 21, Seattle 16; Phoenix 38, LA Rams 10; NY Giants 19, Miami 14; American Conference East division

	W	L	PF	PA
Miami Dolphins	9	5	246	229
Buffalo Bills	7	7	234	177
NY Jets	7	7	246	177
Indianapolis Colts	7	7	238	250
New York Patriots	1	14	140	249
Central division				
Houston Oilers	9	4	269	197
San Francisco 49ers	7	7	246	210
Cleveland Browns	6	8	218	281
Cincinnati Bengals	1	10	128	239
West division				
Kansas City Chiefs	9	5	235	186
Denver Broncos	7	7	235	210
New Orleans Saints	7	7	219	229
San Diego Chargers	6	8	205	205
Seattle Seahawks	1	10	190	217
National Conference East division				
NY Giants	9	5	225	132
Pittsburgh Steelers	7	7	246	177
Philadelphia Eagles	6	8	218	210
Washington Redskins	3	11	140	249
Central division				
Chicago Bears	7	7	207	184
San Francisco 49ers	7	7	246	177
Green Bay Packers	7	7	235	210
Minnesota Vikings	6	8	218	281
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	1	10	128	239
West division				
San Francisco 49ers	7	7	246	177
New Orleans Saints	7	7	219	229
LA Rams	3	11	140	249
LA Raiders	3	11	140	249

Notes: Does not include last night's games: Philadelphia at New Orleans, Seattle at LA Raiders; Green Bay at San Diego Monday; Pittsburgh at Miami

FOOTBALL

Reports and scores from the FA Cup

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SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
12.30 General Shot, 1.00 SHELTON ABBEY (map), 1.30 Vanya, 2.00 Chichester's Hunt, 2.30 Funny Old Game, 3.00 Larpinta.

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.00 LARPINTA.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

12.30 JOHN MADE HIND TRUCK NOVICES SELLING

HURDLE (17.43; 2m 5 (11 fms) (12 runners)

1	4-0	BALLYBEE 32 (J. J. O'Brien)	1	Y. Reed	88
2	5-0	DANIELA 10 (W. J. O'Brien)	2	W. J. O'Brien	88
3	6-0	DENTACULA 52 (P. J. O'Brien)	3	P. J. O'Brien	88
4	7-0	GENERAL SHOT 8 (J. J. O'Brien)	4	J. J. O'Brien	88
5	8-0	HYDROPLANET 11 (J. J. O'Brien)	5	J. J. O'Brien	88
6	9-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	6	J. J. O'Brien	88
7	10-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	7	J. J. O'Brien	88
8	11-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	8	J. J. O'Brien	88
9	12-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	9	J. J. O'Brien	88
10	13-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	10	J. J. O'Brien	88
11	14-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	11	J. J. O'Brien	88
12	15-0	TOO SAV HAWK 12 (J. J. O'Brien)	12	J. J. O'Brien	88

4-0: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 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RUGBY UNION 40

HOME UNIONS MUST
STIFFEN CHALLENGE
TO ALL BLACKS

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7 1993

CRICKET 42
WAQAR TAKES
13 WICKETS IN
KARACHI TEST

Oxford favourites to take Varsity honours

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IT IS a matter of record that University rugby matches are won and lost regardless of form. Therefore, it will not matter to Cambridge that Oxford's record this term makes them favourites to win the 112th Varsity match at Twickenham this afternoon before a record crowd of over 66,000.

This is a time of enduring institutions whose present value is under threat. A week ago, the Combined Services, who have a proud rugby tradition, shook the All Blacks with the rigidity of their defence. Three days ago, the Barbarians remained true to themselves against the same opponents, and now comes the University match. Once England sides could be determined only after the two premier universities had played. Now, potential students are told that if they seek to further their rugby careers, they should not play student rugby. It is good that players of quality see beyond

such blinkered advice and continue to add to the Oxford tradition. A quick glance among leading club sides confirms how much Oxford still means to first-class rugby in Britain — Andrew and Clough at Wasps, Barnes, Ubbu, De Glanville at Bath, Davies and Hall at Cardiff. All internationals and all key components in their clubs.

The tradition was strengthened when the universities combined last summer to tour South Africa, a country which casts a long shadow over the game today. Oxford are led by the resplendently named Lion-Catcher from Johannesburg. He has countrymen at scrum half in Fanie du Toit and, at No. 8, Andrew Aiken, who threatens to be one of the definitive figures. If, that is, he escapes the flu bug that was affecting the Oxford camp yesterday, including Lion-Catcher, Du Toit, John Daniell and Ben Fennell.

"We all expect to be fit but it has meant that the important last few days of a term already



OXFORD UNIVERSITY

M T Joy
R V Wirtle
L S Boyle
E J Rayner
T C S Watson
G L Rees
S F du Toit
B Fennell
O S Henderson
C J Clark
C C Lion-Catcher
J B Daniell
O R Evans
N F C Martin
A D Aiken

REPLACEMENTS: 16 G V Allison (St Paul's and Templeton), 17 G C Beber (Llanishen HS, Cardiff and Kable), 18 R I Tice (Sharncliffe and Wyndale Hall), 19 G I Cooper (Diocean Col, Cape Town and Kable), 20 P F Cowsey (Clongowes Wood Col, Dublin and Templeton), 21 C G G Ritchie (KCS, Wimbleson and Kable).

sadly hit by injuries and lack of good match practice have been wasted," Lion-Catcher said. Bad weather robbed Oxford of their game with Bedford, leaving their fixture list — with a record of seven wins from 11 matches —

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

15 A L Dalwood
14 A N Arntsen
13 J P Flood
12 A J Palfrey
11 A Boyd
10 A J S Kennedy
9 C J C Tynan
8 T J Hughes
7 A J G Reed
6 P G Galloway
5 P C M Irons
4 R A Bramley
3 W S Roy
2 N D Richardson
1 A J Meadows

REPLACEMENTS: 18 S O Phillips (RGS, Worcester and St Edmund's), 17 C W Thompson (Arncliffe and Magdalen), 18 R J Davies (Gresham's and Downing), 19 J P Dudenworth (Bradford GS and St Edmund's), 20 T A Keith-Rosch (Dulwich and Jesus), 21 E D Follitt (St Paul's and Magdalen).

club opponents and then took a pounding from a powerful Toulouse university side. Even so, Phil Callow, Cambridge's second undergraduate captain in three years (following Adrian Davies in 1991), has as powerful a pack

about him as any fielded recently and one to which he will expect Chris Tynan at scrum-half to play. Tynan, the Canadian scrum half, has orchestrated Cambridge well this term but it will be instructive to see to what

extent he uses his back division. "We lack experience in certain areas but we will have commitment... but that does not mean a headless chicken approach," Callow said. "Headless chickens do not win big matches." Even so, Cambridge have backs of talent, if not of the calibre of yore. It would be a shame not to introduce such punishing runners as Tony Dalwood into a broader game, although they may see their first task as restricting Tynan's Canadian colleague, Gareth Rees, at stand off half for Oxford.

"Everything for Oxford revolves around Rees," Tony Rodgers, the Cambridge coach, said. "We have got to get to him quickly and nail him behind the gain line." Easier said than done against a man as powerful as Rees, who can expect the instant support of his back row in whatever he attempts.

The Oxford revelation of the term has been Aiken, a No. 8 of no great stature at 6ft 1in but extremely fast and strong and good enough to impress

the critical Neath supporters who made him man of the match when the university played at the Gnuil.

Oxford also bring five Blues and an England A player in Chris Clark to the match against Cambridge, a captain whose concern this term has been the whole club — the respective under-21 teams play at the Stoop memorial ground this morning — and not just the senior team, hopes to be strong enough to dominate the game and impose his own pattern. But that, too, may be easier said than done.

Richard Ankersen, the rugby union's ticket officer, said: "We used to get huge crowds in the Fifties, when the ground could take 72,000, but nobody can remember anything much above an audience of 60,000. Spectators used to spread themselves about on the terraces." Attendances dipped to 20,000 in the Seventies and early Eighties.

Canadian rivalry, page 40
Farewell All Blacks, page 40

Taylor accuses FA of steering collision course

By KEITH PIKE

THE Football Association yesterday gave its approval to the Programme for Excellence devised by Charles Hughes, its director of coaching, and was then accused of embarking on a collision course with the professional game.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), criticised the failure of the FA to consult his organisation and said the new scheme would do nothing to improve coaching standards. "Hughes' scheme allows professional clubs unrestricted access to youngsters from the age of nine at the FA's centres of excellence, restricts the number of matches they play in a season and introduces a compensation scheme to cover those who later change clubs."

The programme has been supported by the League Managers' Association, the FA Carling Premiership and the English Schools' FA, but is opposed by the PFA and has been criticised by coaches. Its acceptance yesterday came after the FA council had asked for three weeks to consider its merits.

"There were no changes to the proposals or principles of the document," Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, said. "The proposals have gone through as we said they would. We are very happy." Hughes himself had had "no doubts" his programme would be accepted. "We had a very thorough debate, but the council passed the plan unanimously and they would not have done that if they had had any doubts," he said.

Taylor, though, accused the FA of lacking professionalism. "If the FA were the government, they would have al-



Taylor criticised FA

ready been voted out of power," he said. "They have deliberately set out on a collision course with the professional game. They are looking to interfere with the transfer system. You will have transfer fees on the heads of youngsters from nine upwards and they have done this without any consultation with us."

"It is the anti-professional attitude of the FA's coaching system we object to," Taylor said. "There is no evidence that they are making any attempt to do any better

quality coaching. They are just looking to control the syllabus. I find it quite disgusting that the FA's chief executive talks about consulting all the relevant bodies but blatantly ignores us. In spite of their record of disaster, they are looking for more of the same and trying to maintain their power at the expense of progress."

Roland Nilsson, the Sheffield Wednesday defender, is to return to Sweden later this month.

Francis, 30, had told Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, of his wish to be reunited with his family in Sweden a fortnight ago. He only stayed in this country because of the lengthy injury list at Hillsborough.

Yesterday, though, Francis said that Nilsson would leave the club after the game against West Ham United on December 18, having rejected the offer of a Christmas break and the chance to go to Sweden when the club had no mid-week games.

"I have now given up hope of keeping Roland," Francis said. "I feel it is a decision he will live to regret and I feel very disappointed. In the years I have been here as a player and manager, he has been an absolute credit to himself and Sheffield Wednesday."

"But this is the reason I am so staggered by his decision. He is absolutely determined to go."

Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, and his assistant, Harry Redknapp, have been offered new three-year contracts.

Ian Stott, the Oldham Athletic chairman, said he will refuse Everton permission to speak to his manager, Joe Royle, if they approach him about the vacancy created by Howard Kendall's decision to leave Goodison Park.

Andy Townsend, the Aston Villa and Ireland midfield player, had knee surgery yesterday and is unlikely to play again before Christmas.

Huddersfield Town have paid Exeter City £80,000 for Ronnie Jepson, their leading scorer. Watford have placed the forwards, Ken Charley and Roger Willis, on the transfer list.



Shane Warne in action during the third Test match in Brisbane yesterday. Warne took two wickets as New Zealand slid towards defeat. Report, page 42

RFU to discuss war of words

By DAVID HANDS

THE Rugby Football Union was shifting uneasily yesterday after a second weekend in which a newspaper column written by a player — in this case Will Carling, the England captain — produced critical comment about opposing players and teams.

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said he expected the subject to be raised at the union's next committee meeting in mid-January. "Amateur players have the right to express their view," he said. "I don't very much like criticising the opponents or the referee, but they have the right to do so."

In my view it tends to rebound on the person who makes the criticism. One or two people have commented on such columns to me, but in the main we are all basking in the glow of England's win over New Zealand."

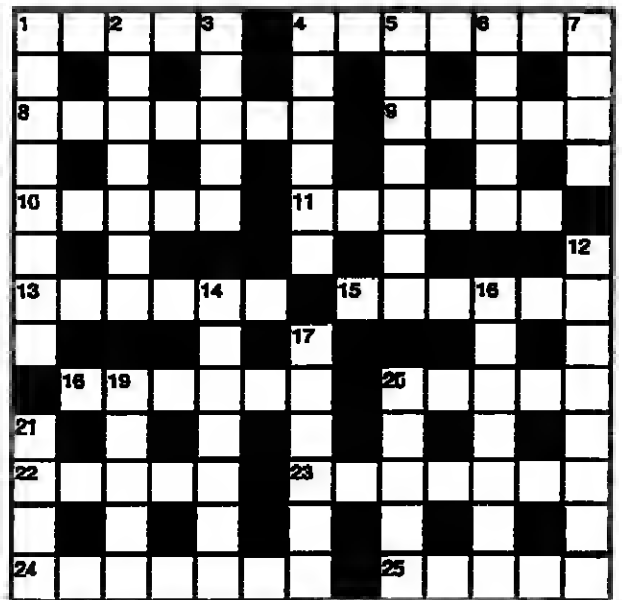
Carling reserved his strictures for the departing New Zealanders in a newspaper column last Sunday while, a week earlier, Brian Moore, the England hooker, alleged that Sean Fitzpatrick, the All Blacks captain, had made abusive comments during the match between England and

New Zealand. In the wake of Moore's comment, Nick Poppell, the Irish prop who played alongside him for the British Isles in New Zealand last summer, said publicly that comments made on the field should be left there.

Speaking at the official function on Saturday after the Barbarians had lost to the All Blacks, Poppell said that words spoken during the heat of the game should remain known only to the players.

It is the increased profile of the game which has made columns by rugby players an attractive proposition, and the relaxation of the amateur regulations has made them permissible. The only remaining prohibition is whether remarks can be construed as bringing the game into disrepute.

Scott Gibbs could be out for the rest of the season. Bob Leyshon, the Welsh Rugby Union surgeon, said yesterday. Leyshon made his assessment after Gibbs, the Swansea and Wales centre, had a magnetic scan on the right knee injured in the Barbarians' match against the All Blacks on Saturday.



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The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 407, 408, 409, 410 and 411 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 412, 413, 414, 415 and 416 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 417, 418, 419, 420 and 421 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 422, 423, 424, 425 and 426 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 427, 428, 429, 430 and 431 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 432, 433, 434, 435 and 436 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 437, 438, 439, 440 and 441 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 442, 443, 444, 445 and 446 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 447, 448, 449, 450 and 451 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 452, 453, 454, 455 and 456 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 457, 458, 459, 460 and 461 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 462, 463, 464, 465 and 466 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 467, 468, 469, 470 and 471 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 472, 473, 474, 475 and 476 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 477, 478, 479, 480 and 481 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 482, 483, 484, 485 and 486 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 487, 488, 489, 490 and 491 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 492, 493, 494, 495 and 496 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 497, 498, 499, 500 and 501 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 502, 503, 504, 505 and 506 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 507, 508, 509, 510 and 511 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 512, 513, 514, 515 and 516 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 517, 518, 519, 520 and 521 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 522, 523, 524, 525 and 526 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 527, 528, 529, 530 and 531 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 532, 533, 534, 535 and 536 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 537, 538, 539, 540 and 541 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 542, 543, 544, 545 and 546 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 547, 548, 549, 550 and 551 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 552, 553, 554, 555 and 556 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 557, 558, 559, 560 and 561 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 562, 563, 564, 565 and 566 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 567, 568, 569, 570 and 571 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 572, 573, 574, 575 and 576 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 577, 578, 579, 580 and 581 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 582, 583, 584, 585 and 586 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 587, 588, 589, 590 and 591 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 592, 593, 594, 595 and 596 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 597, 598, 599, 600 and 601 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 602, 603, 604, 605 and 606 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 607, 608, 609, 610 and 611 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 612, 613, 614, 615 and 616 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 617, 618, 619, 620 and 621 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 622, 623, 624, 625 and 626 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 627, 628, 629, 630 and 631 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 632, 633, 634, 635 and 636 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 637, 638, 639, 640 and 641 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 642, 643, 644, 645 and 646 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 647, 648, 649, 650 and 651 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 652, 653, 654, 655 and 656 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 657, 658, 659, 660 and 661 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 662, 663, 664, 665 and 666 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 667, 668, 669, 670 and 671 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 672, 673, 674, 675 and 676 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 677, 678, 679, 680 and 681 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 682, 683, 684, 685 and 686 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 687, 688, 689, 690 and 691 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 692, 693, 694, 695 and 696 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 697, 698, 699, 700 and 701 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 702, 703, 704, 705 and 706 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 707, 708, 709, 710 and 711 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 712, 713, 714, 715 and 716 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 717, 718, 719, 720 and 721 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 722, 723, 724, 725 and 726 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 727, 728, 729, 730 and 731 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 732, 733, 734, 735 and 736 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 737, 738, 739, 740 and 741 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 742, 743, 744, 745 and 746 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 747, 748, 749, 750 and 751 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 752, 753, 754, 755 and 756 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 757, 758, 759, 760 and 761 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 762, 763, 764, 765 and 766 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 767, 768, 769, 770 and 771 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 772, 773, 774, 775 and 776 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 777, 778, 779, 780 and 781 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 782, 783, 784, 785 and 786 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 787, 788, 789, 790 and 791 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 792, 793, 794, 795 and 796 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 797, 798, 799, 800 and 801 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 802, 803, 804, 805 and 806 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 807, 808, 809, 810 and 811 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 812, 813, 814, 815 and 816 (145 & 16 pages). The Sunday Times Crosswords — Volumes 817, 818, 819, 820 and 821 (1